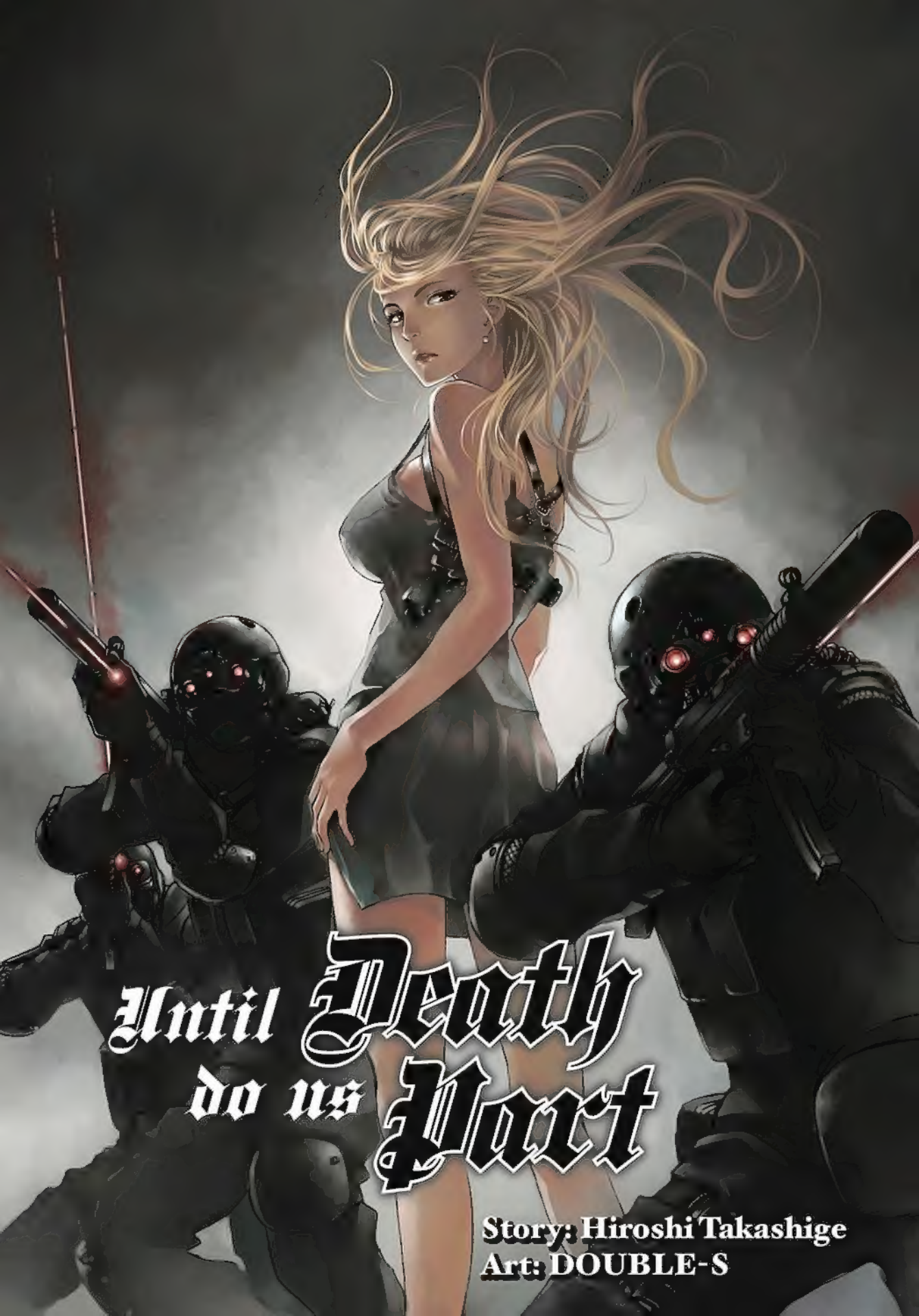
Until
Death
do us
Part
2
Story: Hiroshi Takashige
Art: DOUBLE-S


Until Death do us Part
Story: Hiroshi Takashige
Art: DOUBLE-S

Until Death do us Part

HONDA
alpinestars

Until Death do us Part

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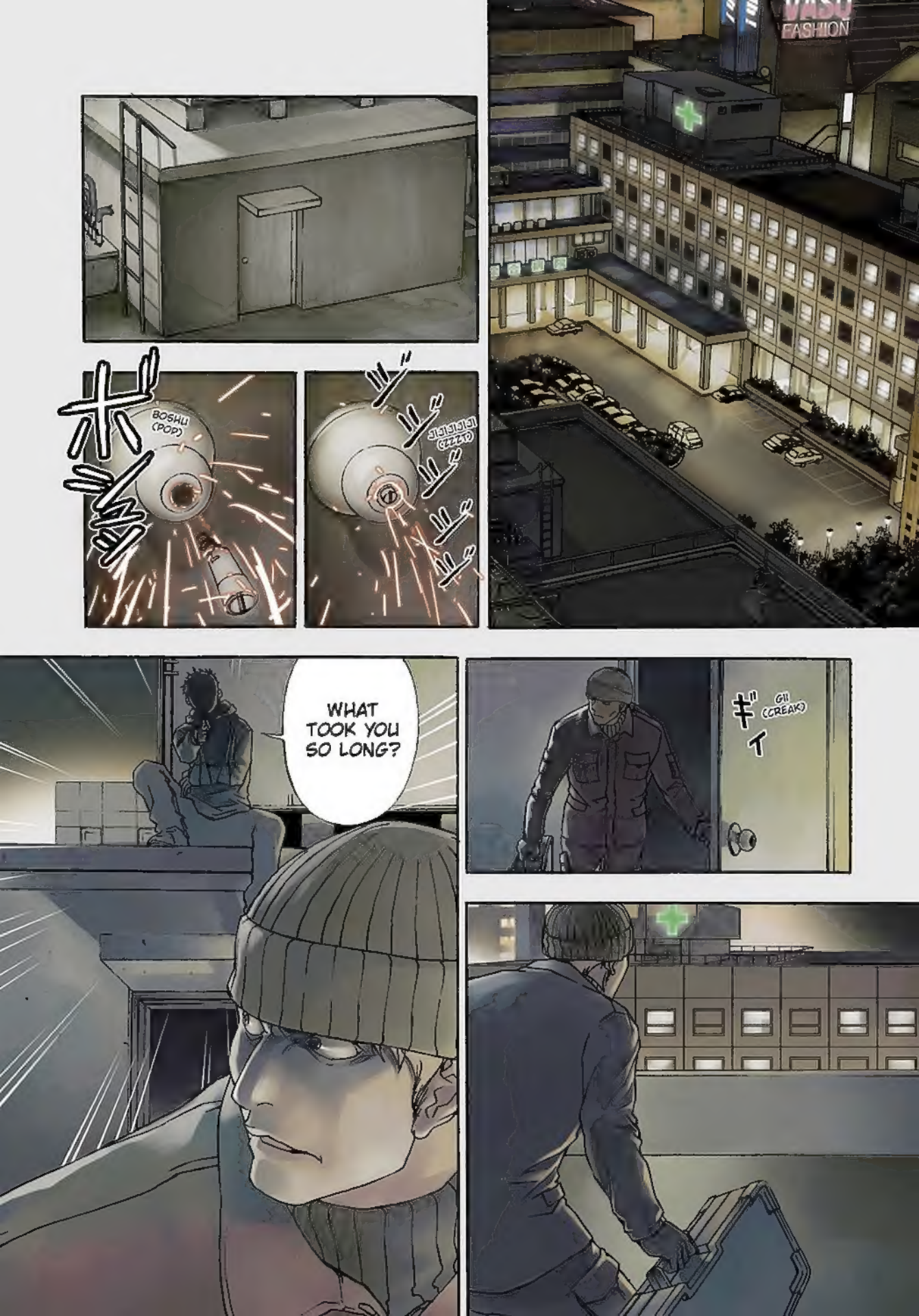
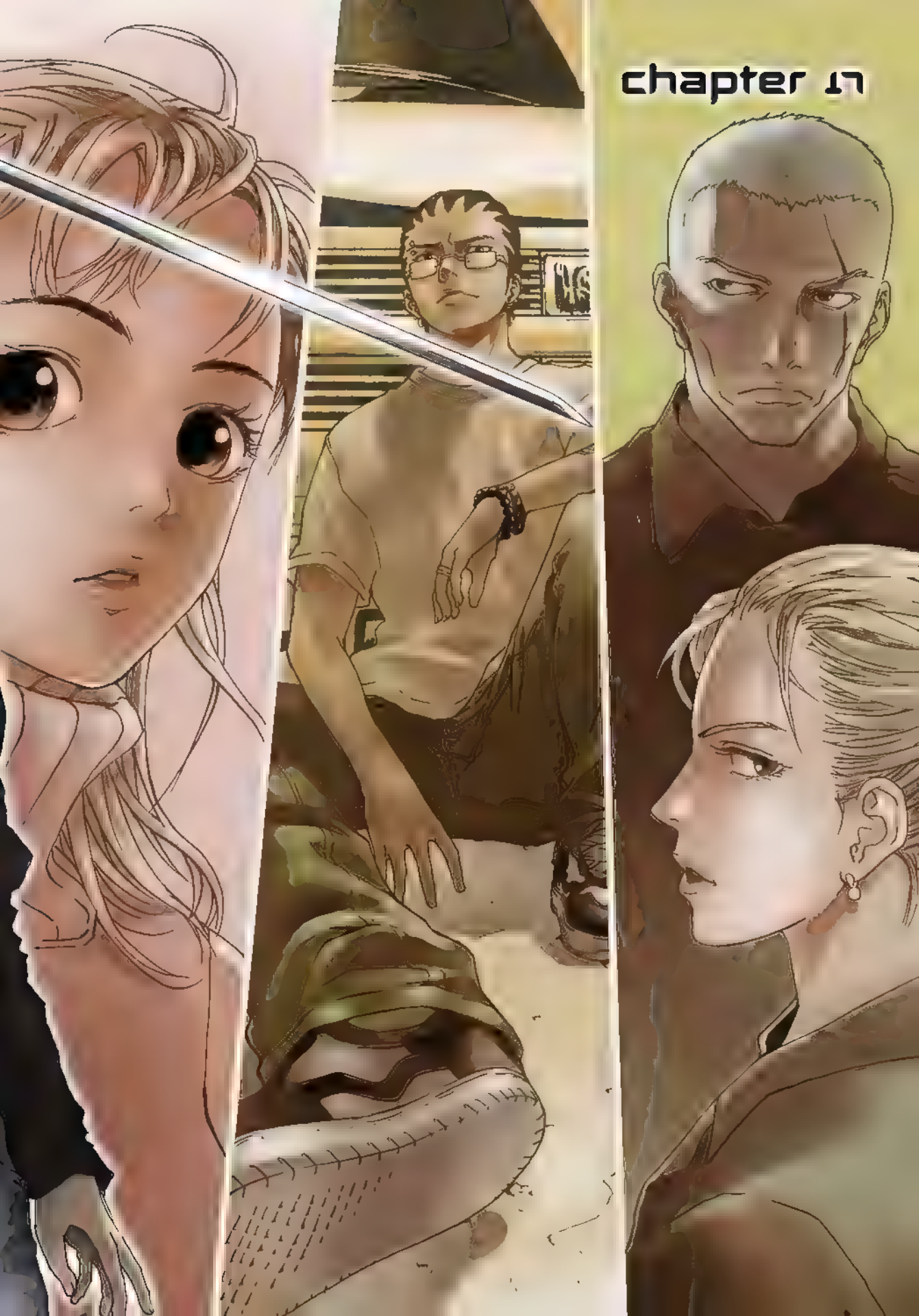
2

Until Death Do Us Part

Story Hiroshi Takashige Art DOLLS


VASU
FASHION
BOSHU (POP)
JIJIJIJIJI (ZZZZ)
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
GII (CREAK)

chapter 17


chapter 17

ズイッ
ZUI (LOOM)
MEK!
MEK (CRK)
GASHI (GRAB)
GAH... AAAH !!

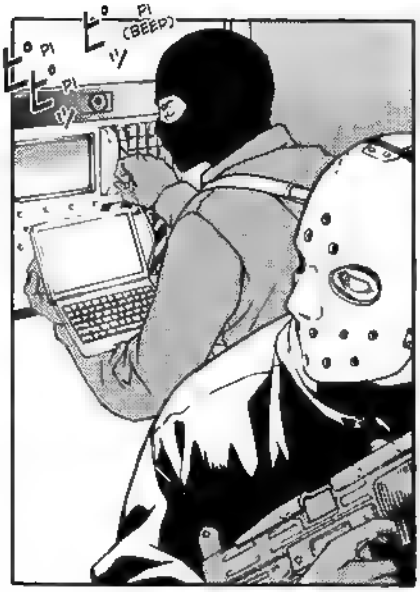
DOSU! (WHUMP)
GUH!
WATCH OUT, HIS GRIP STRENGTH IS OVER 400 POUNDS.
AAH... GHK!
THERE'LL BE NO SELF-DETONATION THIS TIME.
THIS IS IT.
HE'S A SNIPER TO BACK UP ASSAULT TROOPS, PAPA.
SUTA (HOP)
DARAN (DANGLE)
GYU (SQUISH)

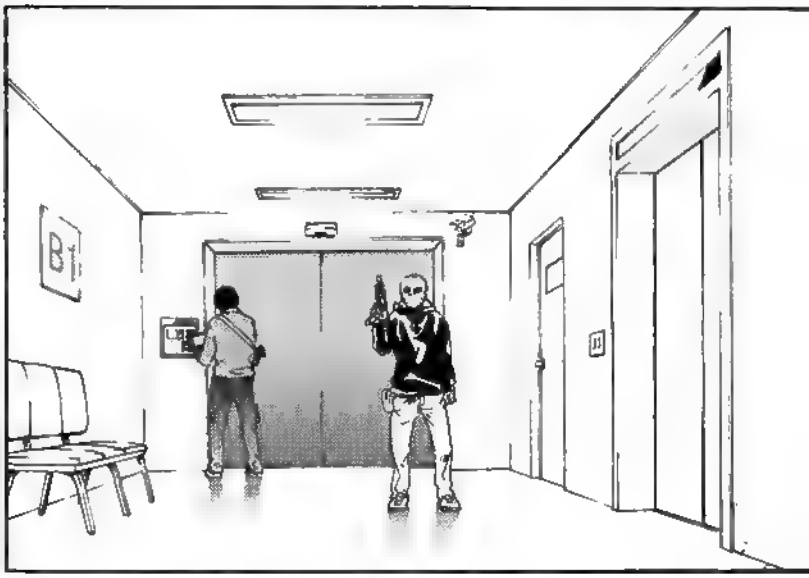
...
ピッ
PI (BEEP)
キチキチキチキチ
KICHEKICHICHI
...MY GRIP'S ONLY 375...
WE'RE UP!
DON'T LET A SINGLE ONE THROUGH !!

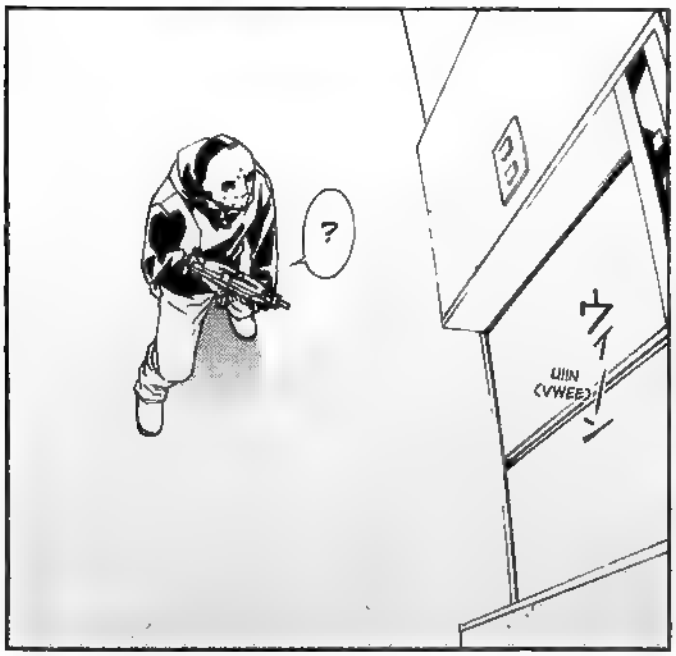
THEY'RE COMING!
BA (SWISH)
BASU
BASU (BSHU)
BASU
BASU
BASU
!!?
DA
DA
DA
DA (DASH)

RRGH!
!!?
CHA
チャッ
CHA (CHA?)
チャッ

AAGH!
PASHU (PSHU)
SHU
SHU
WHA...
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
...THEY'RE FRIENDS...
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOOD AT HIS JOB.
NO.
YOU WERE WATCHING ME THE WHOLE TIME, REMEMBER?
YOU KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!?
THEN HOW!?


ピ PI (BEEP)
ピ PI
ピ PI


B1


B1
ウィン (VWEE)
?

チーン (CHIN (DING))

スパッ
SUPA
(SLASH)
!!?

DOSU (THUKK)
PIPI (BEEEP)
ACCEPTED_
UIIIIN (VWEE)
PIPI
ACCEPTED_
BUUUN (VMM)

ピピッ
PIPI
Access enabled.
OPEN
ウイイイ…
uhhh
プシュウウウ
PUSHUUUU (PSHHT)
ガシュ
GASHU (GSHK)
ガシュ
GASHU

ウィーン
WIIN
OUCH!
ドン
DON (THUD)

.....
NO.
WE... WE'RE ALL GOOD...
DACHIN (FLIP)
What's up? Something happen?
What's wrong?
WE'LL RENDEVOUS WITH YOU SOON.
...No... Don't come.
?
It's fine, just stay put!

.....
...WHEN THE THREATS STARTED, I CALLED OFF THE EXPERIMENT AND HAD THE LAB SEALED...
WHERE ARE THE EMPLOYEES?
AND THAT DELAYED THE TERRORISTS' INVASION.

VLLLLLLLLN (VMMMMM)
PA (FLICK)
PA
PI (BEEP)
PI
PI
PI
UIIN (VWEE)
カチ (KATA CLACK)
DVD
RW
!?
キュキュキュ
KYUUUUUN (WHIRRR)
SAAA (ZSSST)
JUST A LITTLE PATCHING.
WH-WHAT DID YOU DO!?

ALL THE DATA WE NEED IS BEING UPLOADED TO THIS COMPUTER RIGHT NOW.
THIS ONE'S AN IGAWA SPECIAL: "BUCKET RELAY," AN INFORMATION TRANSFER PROGRAM.
.....HERE WE GO...
WHAT IS IT?
...WELL, YOU WON'T WIN ANY AWARDS FOR YOUR NAMING SENSE...
.....
...WHAT, YOU AREN'T GOING TO REVEL IN THE PRAISE...?
.....
IT'S ACTUALLY A LOT CLEVERER IF YOU KNOW THE WAY THE PROGRAM REALLY WORKS.
BIKU (TWITCH)
...You're a genius, man...

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO IF THIS DISASTER GETS ANY MORE OUT OF HAND!?
GA (GRAB)
SO THIS IS YOUR LEFTOVER BIOCHIP.
NO! NOT THAT ONE!
GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK THAT ONE OUT FOR YOURSELF.
DUNNO.
DOKA (THWAK)
AAAH!
ZUSASA (SKID)

...
...IF YOU CAN LOOK AT WHAT'S ON THOSE TABLES AND NOT GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT...
...WHY SHOULD I GIVE A SHIT ABOUT YOU?
.....

AAAH!
HERE'S AN IDEA...
GACHA (CLACK)

AAAAAH!!
...HOW ABOUT I JUST CUT YOU IN TWO RIGHT HERE SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT THE PAPERS WILL SAY?
ZURI (SKFF)
ズリ
ズリ
ZURI
AH... AAAH...
GUO (VVWMM)
You can't!

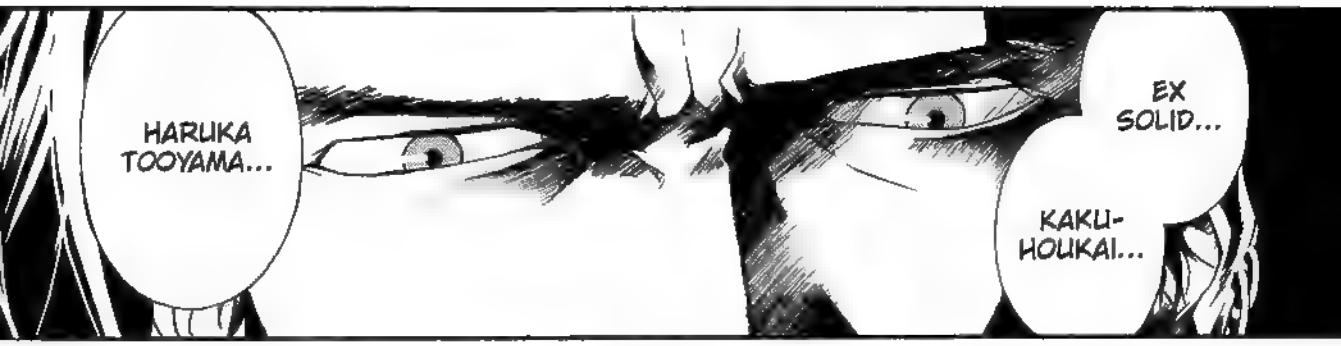
AH...
ピタ
PITA (FREEZE)
.....
B-BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE THE EASY WAY OUT FOR HIM.
BETTER THAT HE'S ARRESTED AND QUESTIONED ...
...SUFFERING YEARS OF PARANOIA AND ANXIETY ...
Why not...?
.....
All right.
IF YOU SAY SO, I'LL HOLD BACK.
ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)
..... AHHH...

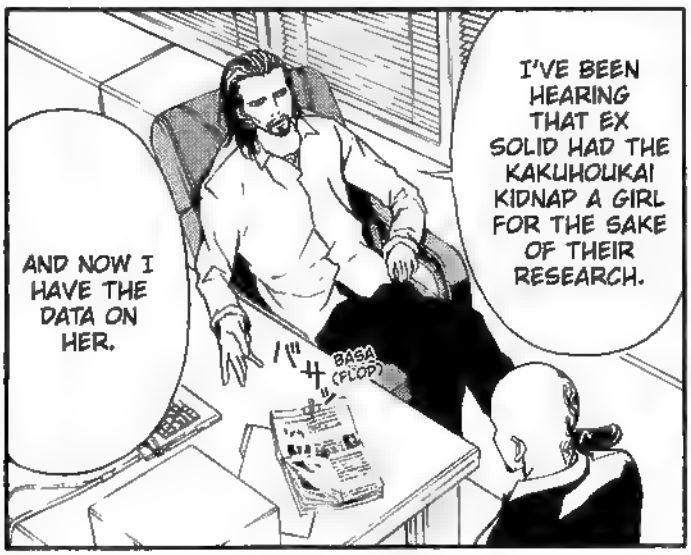
...SHE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PREDICT WHERE HE'LL END UP... SHE'S AN AWFUL LIAR.
HETA (SLUMP)
WHEW ...
WHAT THE HELL DOES HE KEEP MUMBLING ABOUT...?
...
HO (WHEW)
THERE'S A RECORD OF THIS DATA BEING OUT-PUT ONCE BEFORE.
...UH-OH... I DON'T LIKE WHAT I'M SEEING...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT ?

.....
キュッ
GYU (SQUEEZE)
HUH!? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GALBOA TO JAPAN
IT SEEMS THE ASSAULT TEAM SENT TO THE LAB WAS NEUTRALIZED.

...LOOKS AS IF THEY'RE TRYING TO STAMP US OUT ENTIRELY.
YES, SIR.
BUT IF THIS BECOMES A BATTLE OF ATTRITION... WHOEVER CAN HOLD OUT LONGEST WINS.
AND WE'VE GOT NATIONAL MILITARY POWER ON OUR SIDE.
PERA (FLIP)
MMM !?
PIKU (TWITCH)
...
WHO'S THE GIRL?

Haruka Tooyama [12]
ic00865777JPNK


HARUKA TOOYAMA...
EX SOLID...
KAKU-HOUKAI...


I'VE BEEN HEARING THAT EX SOLID HAD THE KAKUHOUKAI KIDNAP A GIRL FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR RESEARCH.
AND NOW I HAVE THE DATA ON HER.
BASA (FLOP)

HUH?
THIS IS GOOD INTEL.

IF THESE MATERIALS ARE CORRECT ...

ORDER EX SOLID TO SEND THEIR SUPPORT LAB MEMBERS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY.
...SHE'S THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO BECOME OUR TOP PRIORITY.

Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 18

THIS IS ABOVE A SINGLE COP'S PAY GRADE...
.....
I CAN'T GET IN-VOLVED.
...WHO THE HELL ARE YOU PEOPLE ...?
...WE NEEDED AN ASSAULT TEAM.
DON'T WORRY.
WE USE NONLETHAL METHODS... OUTSIDE OF EMERGENCIES.
I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY STRAIGHT ANSWERS. THINK OF US AS...A "WALL."

AND NOW I FIND OUT YOU'RE PERFECTLY FLUENT IN JAPANESE.
TCH.
BORING AND COMMON-PLACE NAME TO GIVE YOURSELF.
I LIKE THE NAME.
A WALL IS JUST THERE... IT'S JUST A WALL... BUT IT'S VITAL.
.....

Enemy's largely neutralized. No damage.
GOOD.
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE THE POLICE—
WHOA!
OOFU (BMMFF)

ビタタッ
BITATA (SPLATTER)
ボトッ
BOTO
ボトッ
ボトッ
!!
SHIT!
GET THE MEN OUTTA HERE!!
WH...
WHAT THE HELL!?
DOCHA (SPLATCH)

HUH?
PIPI (BEEP)
KA (FLASH)
DON (BOOM)
DOFU

!!
DON
GAAAH !!
UWAH!
DON
AAAGH!
!!?
PII (BEEP)
PII
PII
PII
YOU OKAY!?
NNGH...
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

They're blowing themselves up!
I've got nine men wounded!!
.....
GYU (SQUEEZE)
I repeat! The terrorists are—
LET'S PULL OUT...
.....WE'LL CALL THIS ONE A BITTER DRAW...
...SHIT!!
DOKA (WHAM)

A DISAS-TER, IS WHAT...
THE TERRORISTS MUST HAVE REMOTE CONTROLS THAT ALLOW THEM TO BLOW UP THEIR OWN MEN...
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!?
WHAT!?
THEY WERE OUT-FITTED WITH BOMBS IN THEIR TEETH...
...SO THAT IF THEY WERE CAUGHT, THEY COULD TAKE DOWN THE ENEMY WITH THEM!!
NO TIME TO STAND AROUND RESTING.
I NEED TO REJOIN THE FORCE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

...YOU'D RATHER STOP ME, OFFICER?
UNLESS ...
DO WHAT YOU CAN...
THE POLICE HAVE THEIR HANDS TIED ON THIS ONE...
NO...
...

...WE'LL GIVE IT OUR BEST...
TAKE THESE BASTARDS OUT.
ALL RIGHT.
AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A BLIND SWORDS-MAN...
...NAMED MAMORU HIJIKATA IN YOUR MIDST...
!!?

...I WOULDN'T TRUST HIM. HE'S A KILLER.

FUAN (WEE-OOO)
FUAN
FUAN

.....

フアン
FUAN
フアン
FUAN
フアン
...SOUNDS LIKE I GUESSED RIGHT.
BATAN (SLAM)
WHERE'S YOSHI-KAWA?

NO MORE USE FOR HIM.
AH... AAH...
ガクッ
GAKU (SLUMP)
THE SOCIAL PUNISHMENT WILL BE BRUTAL.
JAPAN DOESN'T HAVE A LAW AGAINST CLONING, SO THE WORST THEY COULD BE CHARGED WITH IS BREAKING REGULATIONS ON DISPOSAL OF ABORTED FETUSES.
THAT'S IN COURT, BUT PUBLIC OPINION WON'T BE SO KIND TO THEM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ON HARUKA OVER THERE.
THIS IS GIVING THEM THEIR JUST DESERTS.
...SO YOU WERE PLANNING TO TURN THIS INTO A PUBLIC SPECTACLE ...
THEY WERE TRYING TO GET INTO HUMAN EXPERIMEN-TATION.
ALL HELL'S GOING TO BREAK LOOSE IF THE WORD ABOUT HER GETS OUT, RIGHT?
HARUKA'S DATA WAS SCHEDULED TO BE ERASED BEFORE IT COULD BE LEAKED.
ONE MORE THING.
GIKU (TWITCH)
DON'T BRING THAT UP NOW!

ANYWAY...OUR MAIN TARGET IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE TERRORISTS, RIGHT?
WE CAN USE THIS BIOCHIP TO LURE THEM OUT.
?
WAIT!!
?
WE'LL LEAVE THE REST TO THE POLICE. PUT IN A CALL.
ON IT.

STOP RIGHT THERE!
...WH-WHAT'S THIS SUP-POSED TO BE...?
GACHA (CLICK)
GACHA

WHAT !?
WE DEMAND THAT YOU HAND OVER HARUKA TOOYAMA AND THE BIOCHIP IN YOUR POSSESSION.
!?
...I WAS AFRAID OF THIS...
THERE ARE EIGHT SEPARATE CHARGES OF OVER 200 POUNDS OF C4* EACH.
IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY WITH OUR DEMANDS, WHOEVER YOU MAY BE...
...WE WILL SIMULTANEOUSLY DETONATE CHARGES PLANTED ON SEVERAL CORPORATE BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

* A TYPE OF PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE

IT WILL KILL WELL OVER A THOUSAND AND CAUSE AT LEAST 7.5 BILLION YEN IN DAMAGE.
THIS IS NOT A BLUFF.
YOU REALLY THINK I'M GOING TO ACCEPT THOSE TERMS?
LIKE I GIVE A FUCK!
!?
...
THEN STATE YOUR CONDI-TIONS.

コク
...ALL RIGHT...

TWO BILLION DOLLARS IN CASH. THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE WORTH.
I'LL GIVE YOU A TIME AND PLACE.

THE MONEY CAN BE ARRANGED RIGHT AWAY.
.....
——
——...
BUT THE TRANSACTION HAS TO HAPPEN SOON. NO ADDITIONAL TERMS.
OUR CAR WILL LEAD THE WAY. FOLLOW.
BLRRRR (VRMM)

BLOOOO (VMMM)
ブオオオ
UH... WHAT'S THE PLAN...?
JUST GO!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING !?
OUR TEAM CAN'T PROVIDE BACKUP ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE!
AND HOW DARE YOU USE HARUKA AS BAIT!?
DO YOU GET EMOTIONAL SO QUICKLY BECAUSE ALFA IS SOFT ON YOU?
OR IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE A WOMAN?

IN ANY CASE, IF YOU DON'T LIKE OUR METHODS, YOU CAN GET OUT RIGHT NOW.
I'M NOT IN THIS TO MAKE FRIENDS.
!!?
HEY!
?
YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN YOURSELF RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T WANT ANY UNNECESSARY FRICTION LEADING TO FUTURE MISTAKES!!
GYU (SQUEEZE)

SO...
...I THINK OUR BEST SHOT IS TO CONVINCE THEM THAT MONEY IS OUR SOLE OBJECTIVE.
BUT ONCE THEY REALIZE HOSTAGES WILL WORK AGAINST US, IT'S OVER.
OF COURSE I HAVE NO INTENTION OF JUST HANDING HARUKA OVER.
AND THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BOW TO DIRECT PRESSURE.
.....
IT'S NOT MAMORU-SAN'S FAULT.
...TO SAY AS MUCH...
I CON-VINCED HIM...

ZAZAAA (SHIZZT)
ピピピッ
PIPPP (BEEP)
.....
I CAN'T EVEN CALL FOR BACKUP!!
THEY'RE JAMMING US!
ガシャ
GASHA (SLAM)
ブオオオ
BUOOO (VROOM)
ブオオオ
BUOOO
ブオオオ

Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 19

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
ブオオオ
BLOOO
BLOOOO (VRMM)
ブオオオ
TOWARD TOKYO BAY, FAR AS I CAN TELL.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT AS IF THEY TRUST US EITHER!
.....
SHHH (ZZZ)
.....
BLOOOO
ブオオオオ
OF COURSE NOT.
WHAT'S THE PLAN!?

THEY'RE THE ONES LEADING US RIGHT TO THEM. GOTTA SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY.
?

WHICH MEANS WE STILL HAVE THE MEANS TO WIN.

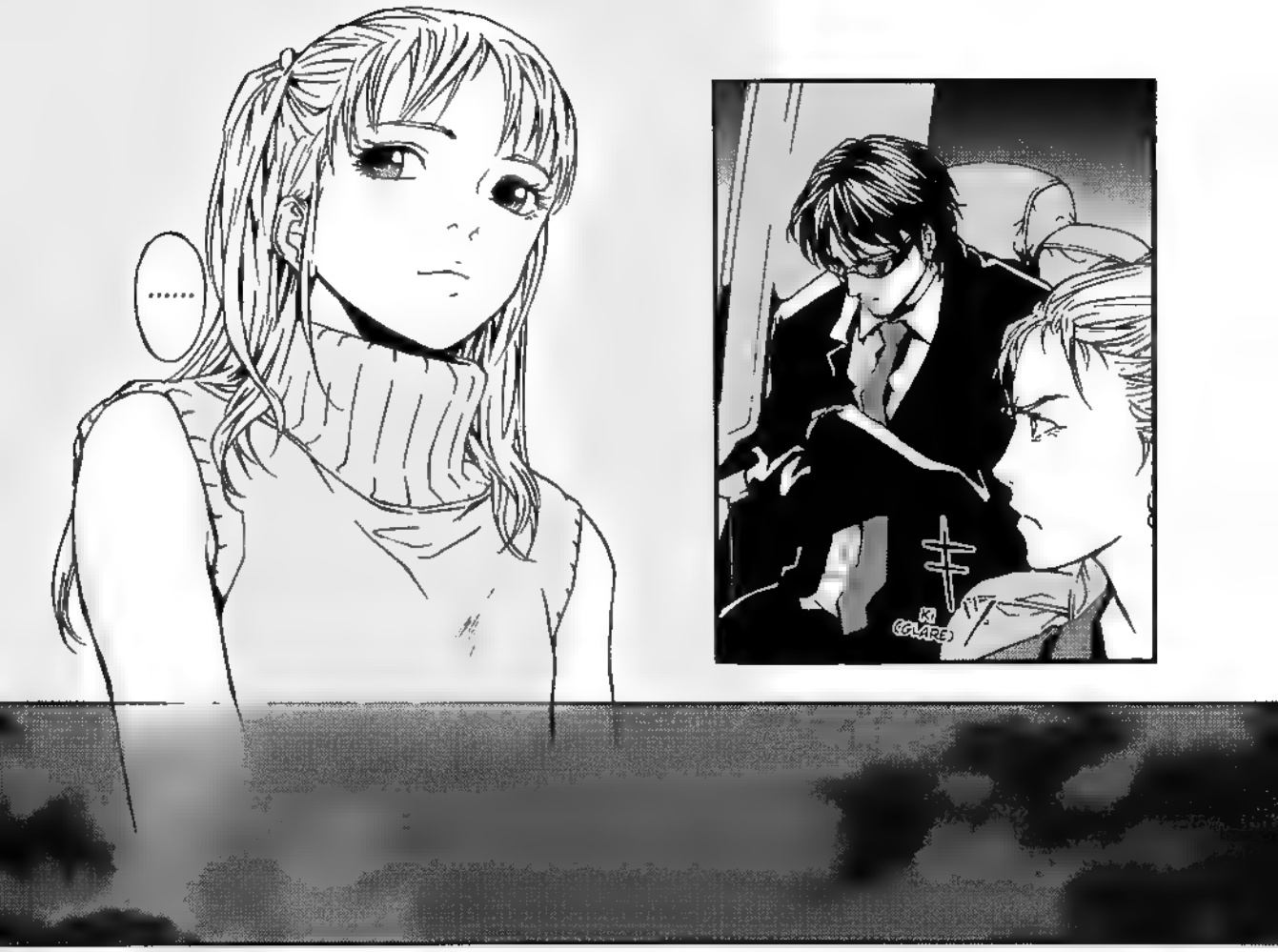
AND AS LONG AS WE HAVE HARUKA AND THE BIOCHIP...
...WE KNOW THEY AREN'T GOING TO TRY AND JUST BLOW US TO BITS.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU TELL RIGHT NOW?
UMM...
WELL...

HARUKA.
YES ?

...IT'S ALL A BIG MESS...
I CAN'T MAKE ANY SENSE OF IT YET.....

I HAVEN'T BEEN RELYING ON HER INPUT IN THIS.
...MAYBE THERE'RE JUST TOO MANY INDEFINITE VARIABLES AND TOO MUCH PRESENT INFORMATION TO SIFT THROUGH.
SINCE WE DON'T KNOW HOW HER ABILITY WORKS, I CAN'T REALLY SAY FOR SURE, BUT...
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.


.....
KI
(GLARE)

ZANA
ZANA
ZANA
ZAVIA
(MURMUR)

POLICE

BLRF!

AH!

YEAH...
YOU MANAGED TO MOBILIZE THE RESPONSE TEAM. NICE WORK, MASUDA.

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT... GENDA-SAN.

...BUT... WHAT DO WE DO...?
EVEN IF YOU HAD...
...IT MIGHT NOT HAVE DONE ANY GOOD. THESE GUYS WERE NASTY.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE MADE IT IN TIME, THOUGH.
THE ATTACKERS BLEW THEMSELVES UP, AND OUR "TOURIST" FRIEND FLED THE SCENE.
AND SINCE YOU WERE THE ONE ON THE SCENE, THEY'LL PIN THE FAILURE ON YOU, GENDA-SAN.
DON'T BOTHER YOURSELF ABOUT THAT.
NO INNOCENTS WERE HARMED, AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.
I'LL JUST BE ON PROBATION FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
.....

!?
...WHAT ...?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ...?
UMM ...
WELL...
ブオオオ
You get our injured members patched up, Bravo?

We've lost touch with Blade's group.
EVERY ONE!
I'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH LOCATIONS AND PLANS LATER.
Roger!
YOU'RE IN CHARGE HERE.
YES, SIR!
ONCE YOU'VE UNLOADED THE WOUNDED ...
...I WANT EVERY ABLE-BODIED OPERATIVE ON THE SEARCH!
カチッ
KACHI (CHUNK)

GALBOA ...!?
OUR ENEMY IS EDGE TURUS, GALBOAN AMBASSADOR.
I THINK THE MUSCLE HE'S USING IS FROM HIS COUNTRY!
I have a report to make, Captain!
!?
AND THE COP I WAS WITH TOLD ME...
...THAT BLADE'S A MURDERER.

...USING A CRIMINAL TO FIGHT CRIME...
...
I'll keep that in mind...
If you're on the mend, rest up!
I SEEM TO RECALL A PLAN WITHIN THE NETWORK ...
...THAT PROPOSED DOING JUST THAT...

I KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT HIM RUBBED ME WRONG.
A CRIMINAL ...
...
NOT QUITE! HE SAID ALL ABLE-BODIED OPS ARE ON THE SEARCH.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
YOU'RE HURT. ORDERS ARE TO STAY PUT AND GET SOME REST.
HEH.
BA (SWISH)
WHAT ?

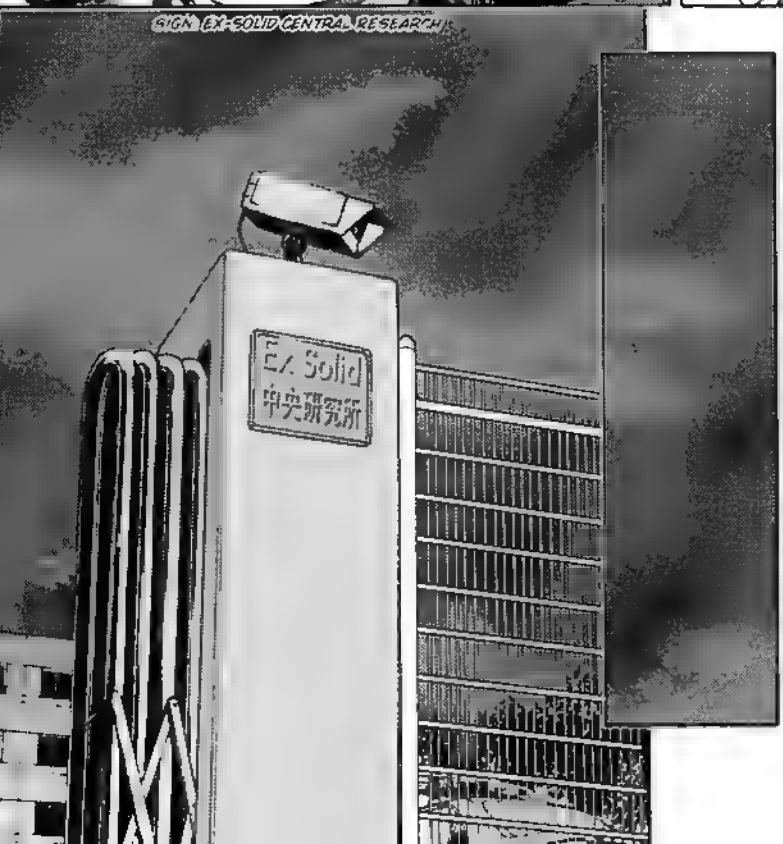
SORRY, SQUAD LEADER.
I'VE STILL GOT WORK TO DO HERE.
SORRY.
MUKU (RISE)
バッ
BA (SWISH)

ALL RIGHT!
OUR COMMUNICATION WITH BLADE IS BEING JAMMED.

GACHA (C-CK)
ガチャ

BUNCH OF IDIOTS... IT'S YOUR CALL!
HAAH...

.....


SIGN: EX-SOLID CENTRAL RESEARCH
Ex Solid
中央研究所

WE NEED TO SPLIT UP AND GET ON THE SEARCH!!
ブオオオオ
BUOOOO (VRMMM)

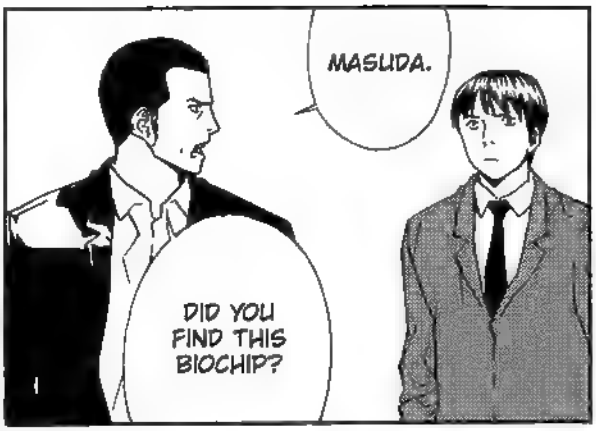
LET ME GO!!
...DAMN THAT YOUNG PUNK...
I KNOW NOTHING !!
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY !!
?
GENDA-SAN.

WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE!?
IS THAT THE SAME THING AS THE OTHER DAY—!?
HE'S AFTER THE SAME THING AS "THE WALL."
YEP. SAME GUY.
YEAH, IT'S A REAL BATTLE-FIELD.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THIS BAD.
THEY SURE DID A NUMBER ON THIS PLACE...
WALL ???
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WELL...
WE'VE APPREHENDED THEM... BUT THEY'RE MISSING A FEW TEETH.
AND THE ATTACK-ERS?

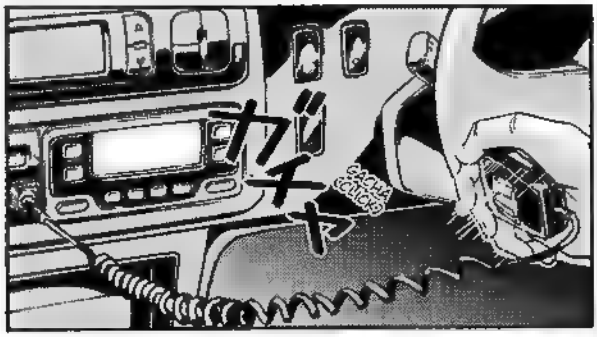
...STRANGE COURSE OF ACTION... FOR A MURDERER...
HUH?
...
IT LOOKS GRISLY, BUT APPARENTLY THAT'S HOW THEY WERE KEPT FROM DETONATING THEMSELVES.
NOTHING. WHAT ELSE?
SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S SOME SORT OF CLONING FACILITY DOWN BELOW. WE'RE ACTUALLY NOT ALLOWED IN.
IT'S REAL NASTY. LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE HARVESTING EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS ...
...FROM ABORTED FETUSES THAT THEY MUST HAVE BEEN GETTING ON THE SLY FROM A NEARBY CLINIC.
WHAT?
LET'S SEE HERE...

THOSE STEM CELLS WERE A CRUCIAL PART OF THEIR BIOCHIP DEVELOPMENT, IT SEEMS.
.....
BUT NORMALLY SUCH METHODS WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE.
.....
NORMALLY!
AND YET THEY WENT DIRTY ALL THE SAME.
NO...
IF IT WERE ME...
WHAT IF THAT'S THE PLUNDERERS' GOAL?
ARE THEY HERE TO DESTROY THAT RESEARCH?

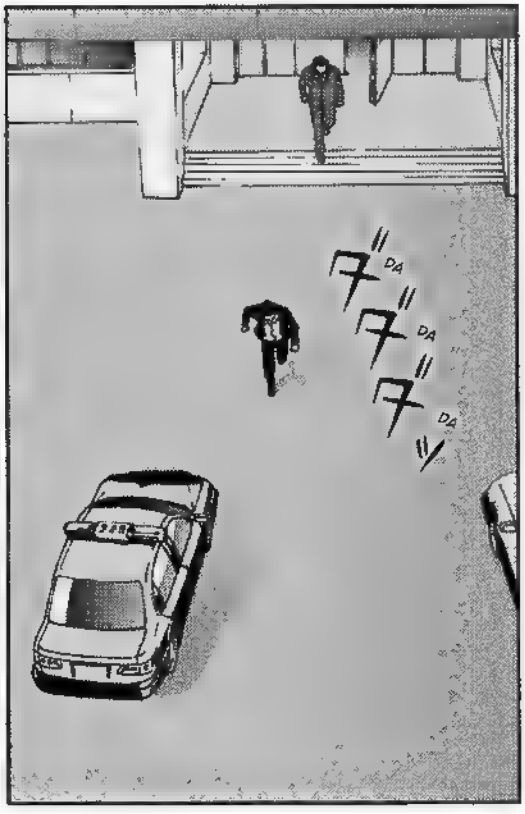
GENDA-SAN!?
!?
THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF!!
DA (DASH)


MASUDA.
DID YOU FIND THIS BIOCHIP?

NO.
NOT EVEN A PROTOTYPE. MAYBE THEY NEVER FINISHED THE PROJECT?

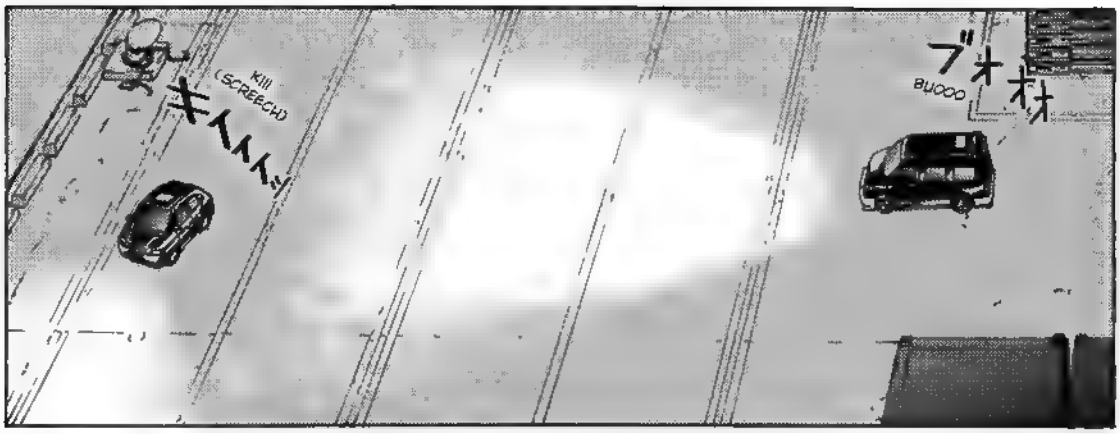

GACHA (CHICK)

PI-TA (STOP)


DA
DA
DA
DA

...THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRUST THE WALL TO TAKE CARE OF IT.....
...IF THE POLICE CAN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON THIS ONE ...
...NO, I CAN'T ...
WHAT IS IT?
ガシャン
GASHAN (CRAK)
DAMN !!

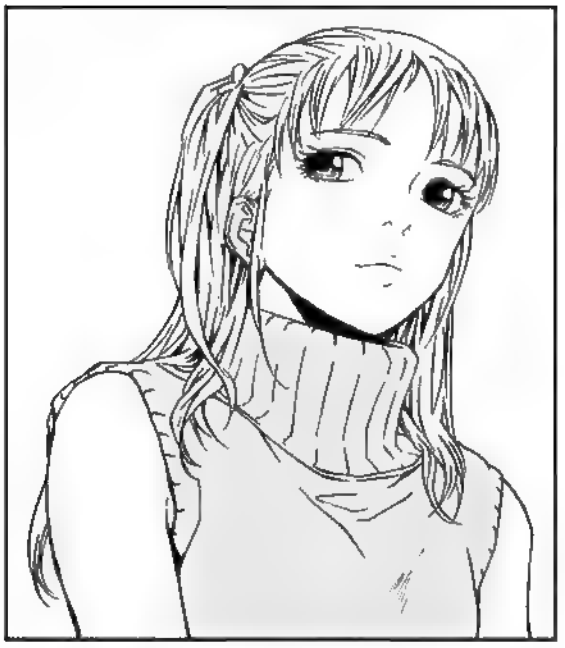
YKD
YKD
ブオオオ
BUOOO
(VRAAA)


キィィィィ
KIII
(SCREECH)
ブオオオ
BUOOO

IT'S A CARGO SHIP...

D&F&TQ

AHH....
GREAT PLACE FOR A STAGE.



Until
Death
do us
Part

ブオオオ
BUOOO (VRRM)
GET RID OF EVERYONE BUT THE GIRL BEFORE I ARRIVE...
トン
TON
トン
TON (TAP)
I'M ON MY WAY NOW.
SHOW THEM THAT WE AREN'T INTERESTED IN BARGAINING.
トン
TON
トン
TON

chapter 20

chapter 20

ブオオ
BUOOO (VRMMM)
HOLD UP, YANKEE.
FOUND IT.
KI-I (SCREECH)
キィッ
CHA (CHK)
チャッ

THIS IS ZULU. I HAVE VISUAL ON THE SPRAY MARK.
...
BLADE'S VEHICLE IS GOING INTO THE CITY.
FOLLOWING THE MARKS FROM HERE.
ポ
PO (DRIP)
ッ
ポ
PO
ッ
THAT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH...
WAIT...

SHIT...
.....
THE STREET SURFACE REFLECTS LIGHT IN THE RAIN.
THAT'LL MAKE PICKING UP THE PAINT A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS.
ZAAAAA (FSHHH)
ZAAAAA
ZAAAAA

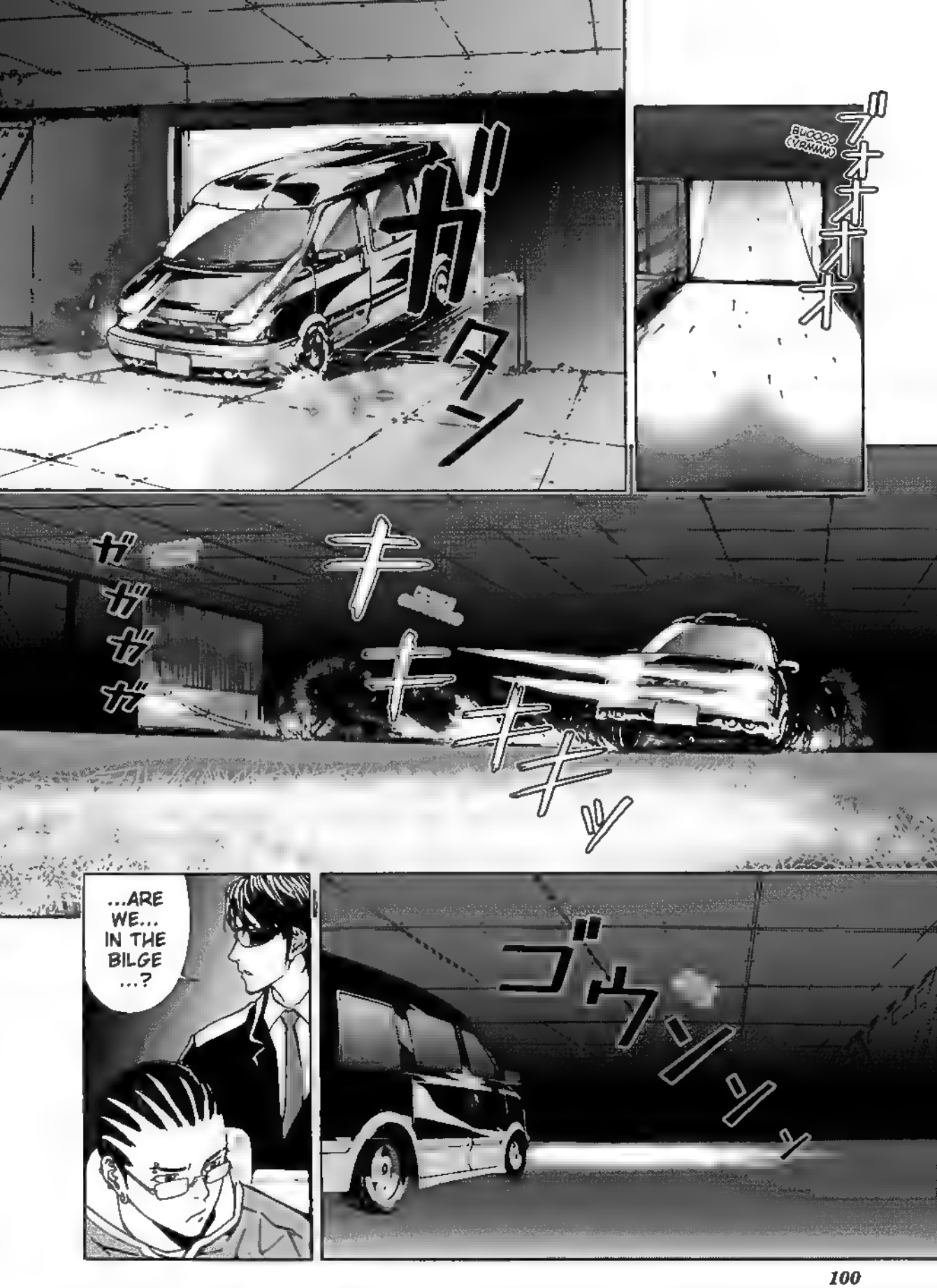
ザ
ZAAAAA
アアアア
ワイッ
KUI (FWD)

GET IN THERE.
HUH?
THEY WANT US TO DRIVE INSIDE?
NOT A GOOD IDEA.
THEY WANT US TO WALK RIGHT INTO THEIR CAGE.
HUH?
AND DO WHAT!?
JUST DRIVE!
!?
ZAAAAA (FSHHH)
O-OH YEAH? SO WHAT NOW?
THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D HAVE TWO BILLION DOLLARS READY TO HAND OFF AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.
THIS WAS NEVER GOING TO BE ANY-THING BUT A TRAP.

IF WE'RE TRAPPED LIKE RATS ...
...WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CHEW OUR WAY OUT.
.....
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

ZAAAAA (FSHH)
...
GYURURURU VRRRRRN
WELL ...
...HERE GOES NOTHING !!

ヴォン
GUON (VRUMM)
ガアア
GAAA (KSHHH)
WH-WHAT'S THIS!?
GAAAAA
ガアアアアア
ガクン
GAKUN (K-KUNK)
HUH!?
!?
A TUNNEL?


ガタン
ブオオオオ
BUGOOO (VRMMM)
ガガガガ
キキキキッ
ゴウンゴウン
...ARE WE... IN THE BILGE ...?

THE VAN'S OUTFITTED WITH THE SAME SYSTEM THAT LINKS TO HIS SUNGLASSES.
HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE IN THIS DARKNESS.
...I CAN'T SEE A THING DOWN HERE ...
CAN YOU SEE?
WAIT A SEC...
KACHI (CLICK)
カチッ
HOW MANY!?
TURN THE WINDOWS OPAQUE. THE DOOR IN FRONT OF US JUST OPENED UP.
スーッ
Suuu (SHH)
WE'VE GOT COMPANY. LOTS.
HUH?

THEY'RE FAR OFF, AND THE PICTURE'S BLURRY.
CAN'T TELL.
BA (SPIN)
IT MUST BE INTERFERING WITH THE ULTRASONICS.
OH, SHIT!!
IS IT BECAUSE WE'RE SURROUNDED BY STEEL?
...
TCH! IT'LL TAKE ME A LITTLE WHILE TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS!
GU (SQUEEZE)
ヴッ
カタ KATA (TAP)
AND THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN OUR ADVANTAGE!
I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS.
カタ KATA
カタ KATA

SHURU (TUG)
シュル
DON'T BOTHER. THEY'LL HAVE NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES ON, I'M SURE.
AND THERE'S HARDLY ANY COVER. LET ME HANDLE THIS.
MAMORU-SAN.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR US.
I ALWAYS DO.
.....
CHA (CHIK)
チャッ
YOU COME WELL-PREPARED.
KACHA (CLICK)
カチャ
ウィィィ
LIIII (VYHEEEE)
WAIT! I'LL BLIND THEM FIRST.

!!?
PACH
(ZZP)
BACHICH
(BZZT)
!?
KACHI
(CLICK)
BASHU
(BSHOO)
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
SUTA
(SHTP)

FLOOR'S COLD... AND DAMP.
!?
FFFH.
TATATA
TATATA (FATHER)
...THEY SPLIT AND RAN...
AAAH!
PASHU
PASHU
PSHU
RRGH !!

SA (SWISH)
It's still danger-ous!
WE'RE FINE— JUST WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF.
What? It's not like I'm going to make Haruka drive.
MOVE THE CAR BEFORE THEY PICK OUT YOUR LOCATION.
PASHU (PSHT)
ドドドド

AAGH!
FUCK!
KIN
KIN
KIN
BA (SPIN)
DA (BAM)
DA
DA
DA
DO (BLAM)
DO
DO
DO
PASHU
SASASA (SNEAK)
SU (SSK)

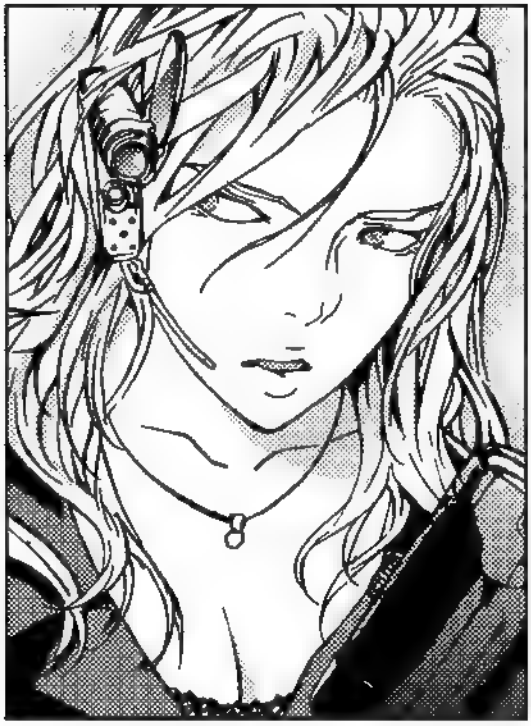
!
DO (BLAM)
DO
DO
DO
AAAAAH!!
BR (ZZZAP)
ビビビビビビ
BIRI
BIRI
BIRI
GAAAAH!!
NO...
GUI (TUG)
THE JIG'S ALMOST UP.
DOSA (THUD)
HUH?
THEY'RE NOT GETTING IN THAT EASY.
THE CAR'S FRAME HAS A HIGH-VOLTAGE CURRENT RUNNING THROUGH IT.

WAIT! I'M NOT DONE WITH THE ADJUST-MENTS!!
GOTTA MAKE MY APPEAR-ANCE...
...I CAN'T AFFORD TO RELY ON SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
...THAT IDIOT...!!
W-WAIT!
ガチャッ
GACHA (CLICK)
ガシュン!
GASHU (SLAM)

MAMORU-SAN DID THAT TO PROTECT YOU, I THINK.
...UMM... HE JUST DOESN'T WANT IT TO BE YOUR FAULT IF HE FAILS.
TCH.
I GUESS YOU WOULD KNOW A FEW THINGS...
...ABOUT YOUR FUTURE HUBBY.
HUH?
HE SAID THE SAME THING TO ME.

.....!?
...I GET IT NOW...
.....
DA
(BAM)
DA
DA
DA

ダダダダッ
DADA (BLAM)
DA
DA
DA
...AS LONG AS I CAN GET CLOSE...



Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 21

IF I'D KNOWN IT WOULD COME TO THIS, I WOULD HAVE KEPT UP THE SIGHT TESTS RATHER THAN CALL THEM OFF!!
DAMMIT !!
KATA (TAP)
KATA
カタ
IF I JUST HAD THE DAMN DATA, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO EAT ALL THIS TIME ON MANUAL ADJUST-MENTS!!
...WHAT IF I JUST GET CLOSE ENOUGH...?
IA (SWIFF)

PA (FLICK)
DA
!!?
...WHAT'S THIS...?
ACTIVE
← SEND SONAR SIGNAL
RECEIVE ECHO →
PASSIVE
RECEIVE AUDIBLE SOUNDS →
IT CUTS OFF ALL THE SONAR SIGNALS, SO YOU'LL ONLY PICK UP ACTUAL ENVIRONMENT SOUND.
THEY CAN'T SEE YOU, SO ALL YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IS STAYING SILENT.
WATCH OUT FOR STRAY BULLETS.
I JUST SWITCHED YOUR SONAR FROM ACTIVE TO PASSIVE MODE.
I turned the sensor to audible-only.
?

KATA (TAP)
KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA
YOU TWO BE MINDFUL OF THE OTHER, AND TRY NOT TO TAKE EACH OTHER OUT.
I TRUST MY EARS JUST FINE ON THEIR OWN.
I know, I know, just make do with this for now.
ROGER.
I CAN'T HOLD BACK UNDER THESE CIRCUM-STANCES, YOU KNOW.
Don't kill them.
You've got a navigator with you.
SUSUSU (SWISH)

NAVIGA-
TOR?
JUMP TO THE RIGHT!!
!?
GA
(THUD)

I SEE...
MY VERY OWN PROPHETIC SENSOR ...
...
Did you make it?
カチッ
KACHI (CLICK)
ZUA (ZWOOSH)
DA
IT WORKS FOR ME!

GACHA (KA-CHAK)
GIRA (GLINT)
AAAGH!
GWAAH!
DOSA

THIS WORKS OUT PRETTY WELL.
...HEH...
MR. TURUS WANTS THIS TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE HIS CAR ARRIVES!
...DAMMIT! WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON IN THERE...!?
ZAAA (ZSHHK)

INFILTRATE THE ENEMY'S TERRITORY UNDER THE GUISE OF NEGOTIATION.
MOST LIKELY WITH THE INTENT OF FINDING OUR BASE AND TAKING US DOWN.
!
...WELL-PREPARED, THEY ARE.
I'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE ASSAULT TEAM.
THEY MUST BE EMITTING A POWERFUL ELECTRO-MAGNETIC SIGNAL THAT'S SCRAMBLING OUR SYSTEMS.
.....
THEY'RE SORELY UNDER-ESTIMATING OUR REMAINING STRENGTH.

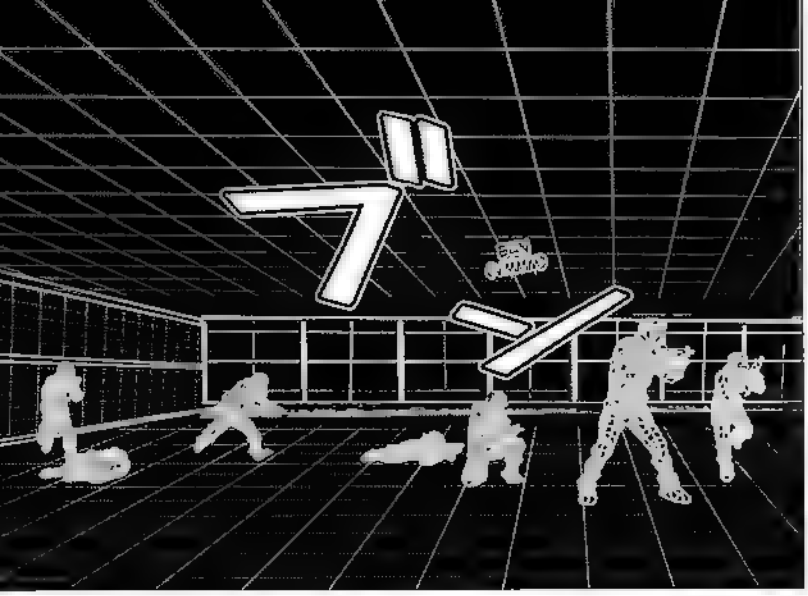
...YES, THERE IS...
?
THERE'S NO PARTICULAR REASON WE NEED TO BE ON TENTER-HOOKS WITH THEM.
PLUS, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FLOOD THE BALLAST TANK THEY'RE INSIDE TO WIPE THEM OUT.
BUT HOW DO YOU CAPTURE SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
BY ELIMINATING ALL POS-SIBILITY OF ESCAPE...
...SO THAT COLLABORAT-ING WITH US IS HER ONLY AVAILABLE OPTION IF SHE WANTS TO LIVE.
...BUT...
...HOW WOULD WE...?
THERE'S NO REPLACEMENT FOR A REAL PROPHET. WE'LL NEVER SEE HER LIKE AGAIN.
I WANT HER UNHARMED.

IF WE CAN MAKE IT SO THERE'S NO POSSIBLE ESCAPE FOR HER, SHE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO JOIN US.
SU (SHH)
IT'S IN HER FILE.
SHOULD BE SIMPLE IN THESE CIRCUM-STANCES.
...I SEE...
EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS LIMITS.
PI (FLIP)
?
YES, SIR!
ENCODE THE DATA AND SEND IT BACK HOME.
THAT'S OUR LATEST LIST OF ACQUISI-TIONS.
WE'RE GOING TO GREET THEM IN STYLE.
EVERYONE ELSE, PREPARE TO MOBILIZE!

THEY'RE GOING TO HIT YOU!!
JUMP LEFT, MAMORU-SAN!!
BA (LEAP)
DA (BLAM)
DA
DA
DA
!
ZUSHA (SLIDE)
GUH!
BO (BMMF)

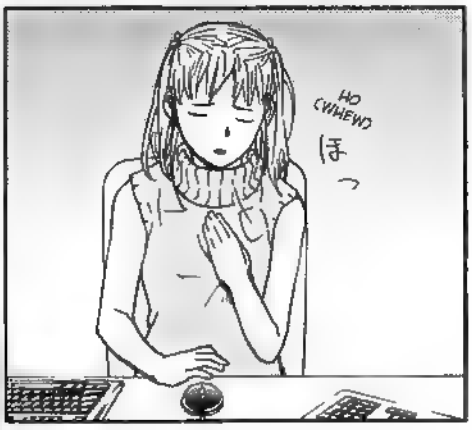
NNH...
...DOES THAT MEAN... IF I'D DODGED IT ANY OTHER WAY...I'D BE DEAD RIGHT NOW?
DOSA (THUD)
GAGAGA (SKIDDD)
.....
Y-YES...
I'M SORRY...
NO WORRIES.
THIS IS BULLET-PROOF FABRIC. JUST A LITTLE RATTLED FROM THE PHYSICAL SHOCK.
YORO (WOBBLE)
ヨロッ
...I see...
SO THE FUTURE DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN "GOOD THINGS."
THERE'S ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOUR ONLY CHOICES RANGE FROM "BAD" TO "WORSE."

Guess I never really considered that seeing the future ...
...could be such a painful thing...
.....
...

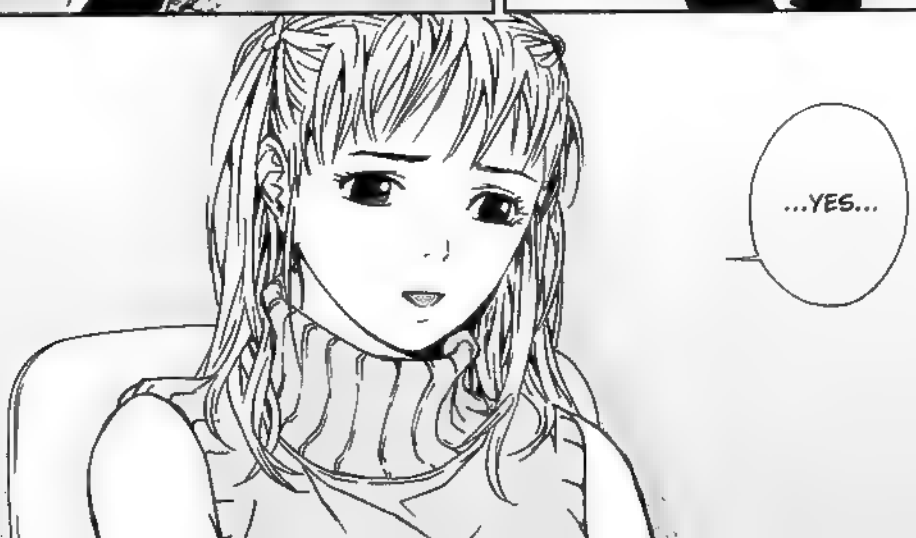

ブン
BUN (SWING)

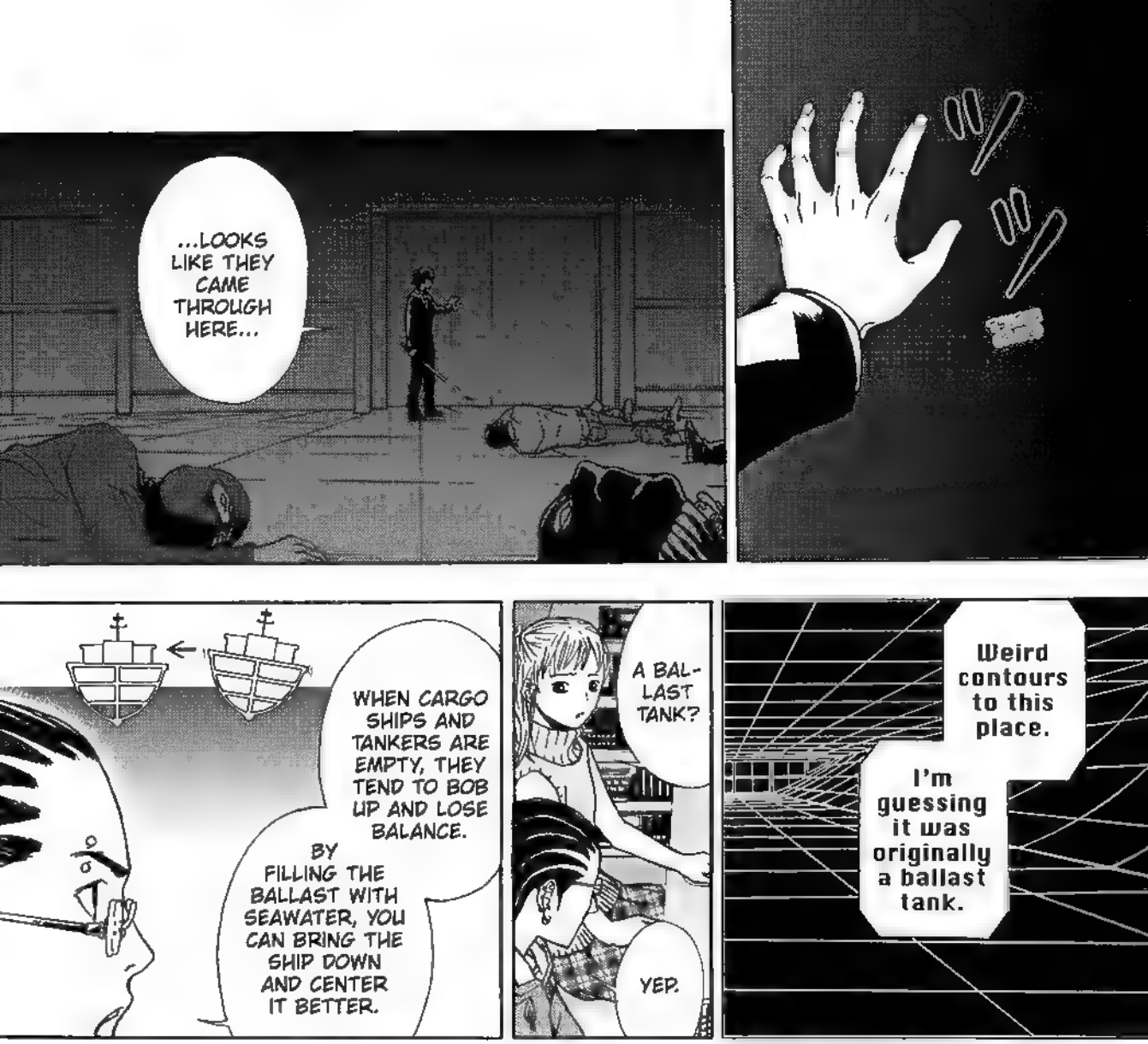
ADJUST-
MENTS
COMPLETE!
TAN (TAP)
タ～ン

ガガガガ
ZAZAZA (SWM)
THIS'LL BE OVER IN A MINUTE.


HO (WHEW)
ほっ

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE TIRED. TAKE A BREAK, HARUKA.


...YES...


...LOOKS LIKE THEY CAME THROUGH HERE...

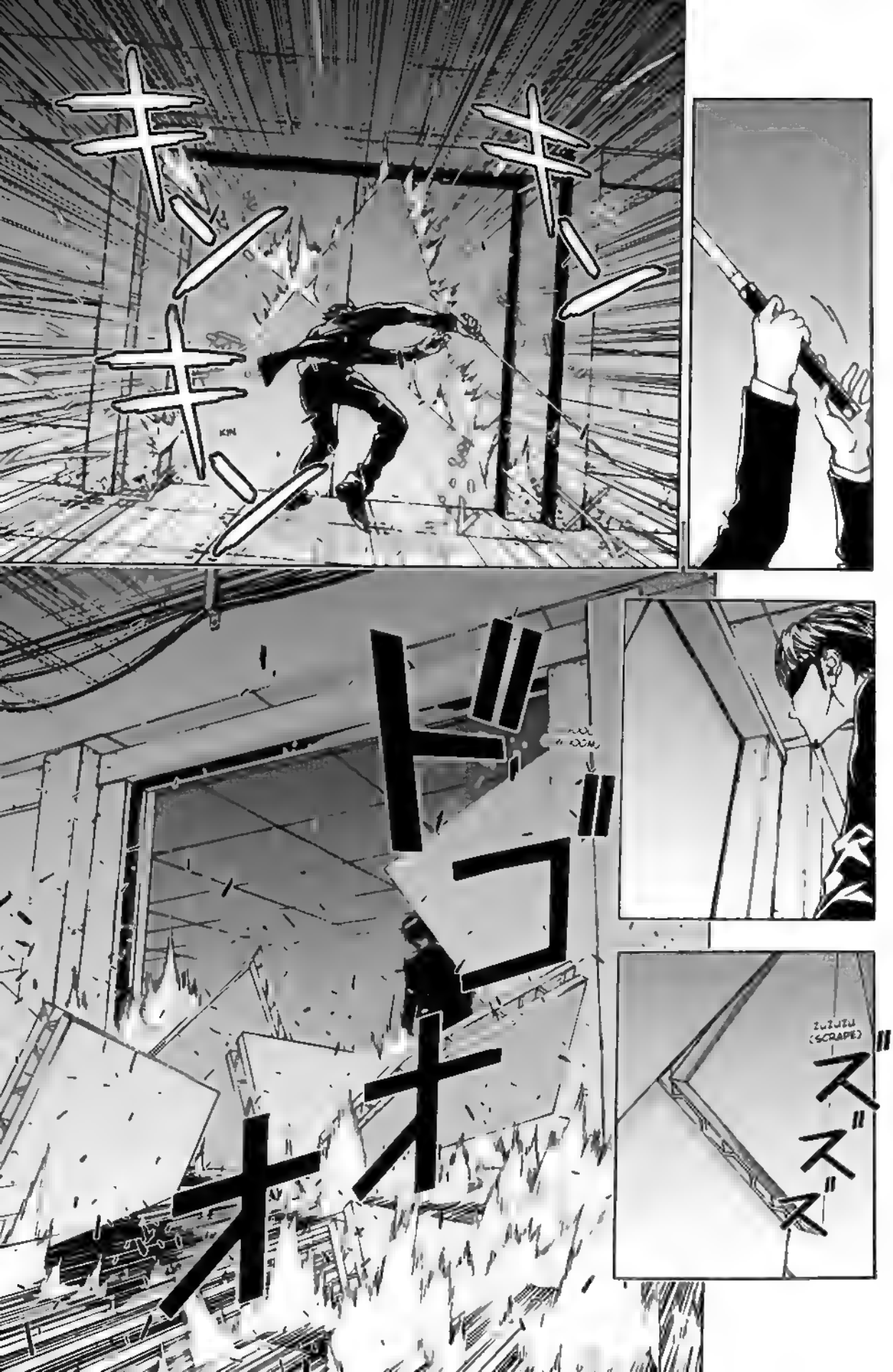
WHEN CARGO SHIPS AND TANKERS ARE EMPTY, THEY TEND TO BOB UP AND LOSE BALANCE.
BY FILLING THE BALLAST WITH SEAWATER, YOU CAN BRING THE SHIP DOWN AND CENTER IT BETTER.

A BAL-LAST TANK?
YEP.

Weird contours to this place.
I'm guessing it was originally a ballast tank.

AND THAT MEANS THEY COULD FLOOD THE TANK AND KILL US.

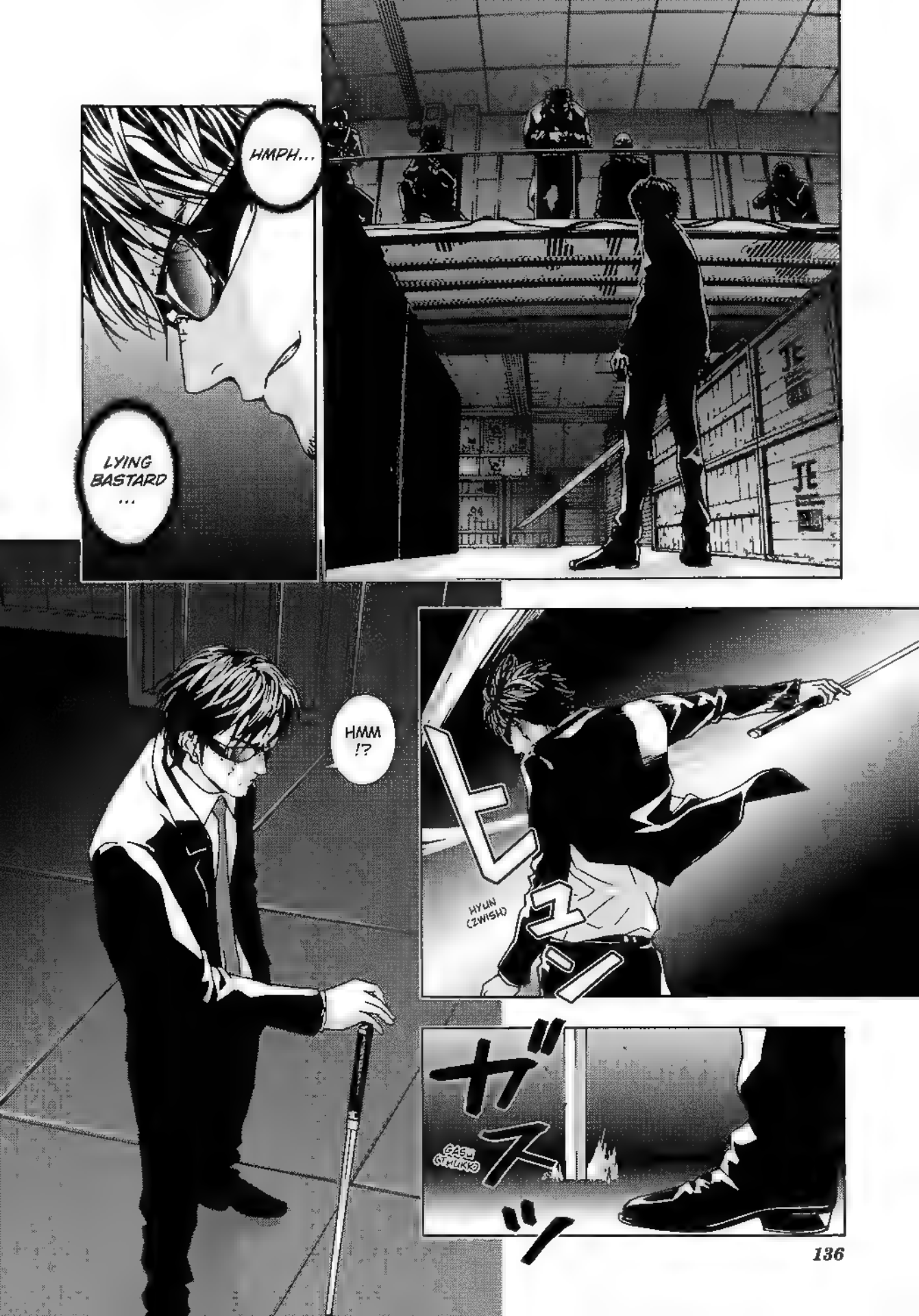
SO THAT'S WHY IT'S SO COLD AND DAMP OUT THERE.


KIN
KIN
トコ
トコ
ZUZUZU (SCRAPE)
ズズズ

ZUZU (SKFF)
ズ
ズ
ズ
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ANY-MORE.
OOO (WHOOSH)
オ
オ
オ
オ
...I'M GUESSING THESE CON-TAINERS ARE HIDING THEIR SPOILS OF WAR.
!!?
DOGA
ドガ
DOGA
ドガ
DOGA
ドガ
DOGA (STOMP)
ドガ
DOGA
ドガ
DOGA
PRETTY CLEVER, HIDING THEIR CONTRABAND IN THE BALLAST TANK.

I'M COMING TO BACK YOU UP!
!
!
SHIT!

THE THINGS YOU DO ARE BEYOND IMAGINA-TION.
.....
...I SEE...
NO WONDER MY MEN HAVE BEEN HAVING SO MUCH TROUBLE ...
REMOVE YOUR EQUIPMENT AND SURRENDER!
AND I WILL GRANT YOU YOUR LIFE.


HMPH...
LYING BASTARD ...
HMM !?
HYUN (ZWISH)
GASU (THUKK)

...SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE THE BOSS ...
You've done well on your own.
BUT THAT ENDS HERE.
.....
ONLY IN JAPAN.

HAND OVER HARUKA TOOYAMA!
.....

Until
Death
do us
Part

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU THINK YOU'VE WON ALREADY!
WHAT, CAN'T A MAN LAUGH AT SOMETHING AMUSING ?
HEH HEH HEH...
WHAT'S SO FUNNY !?
!?

chapter 22

chapter 22

...YOU DON'T FULLY APPRECIATE YOUR SITUATION.
HMPH! YOU SOUND AS IF...
CHA (SHIK)
SU (SHIK)
HUH !?
WHAT'S UP?

PASHU (PSHOO)
PASHU
PASHU
!?
WH- WHAT'S GOING ON!?
PASHU
PASHU
PASHU
HRRGH!
PASHU
PASHU
PASHU
UAAGH!!
AAAAH!

PASHU
PASHU
PASHU (PSHOO)
パシュ パシュ パシュ
!!
GA (GRAB)
DADA (BLAM)
Did we show up early?
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DA
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DODO (RATTA)
HOW'D YOU KNOW THIS WAS THE SPOT!?
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME.

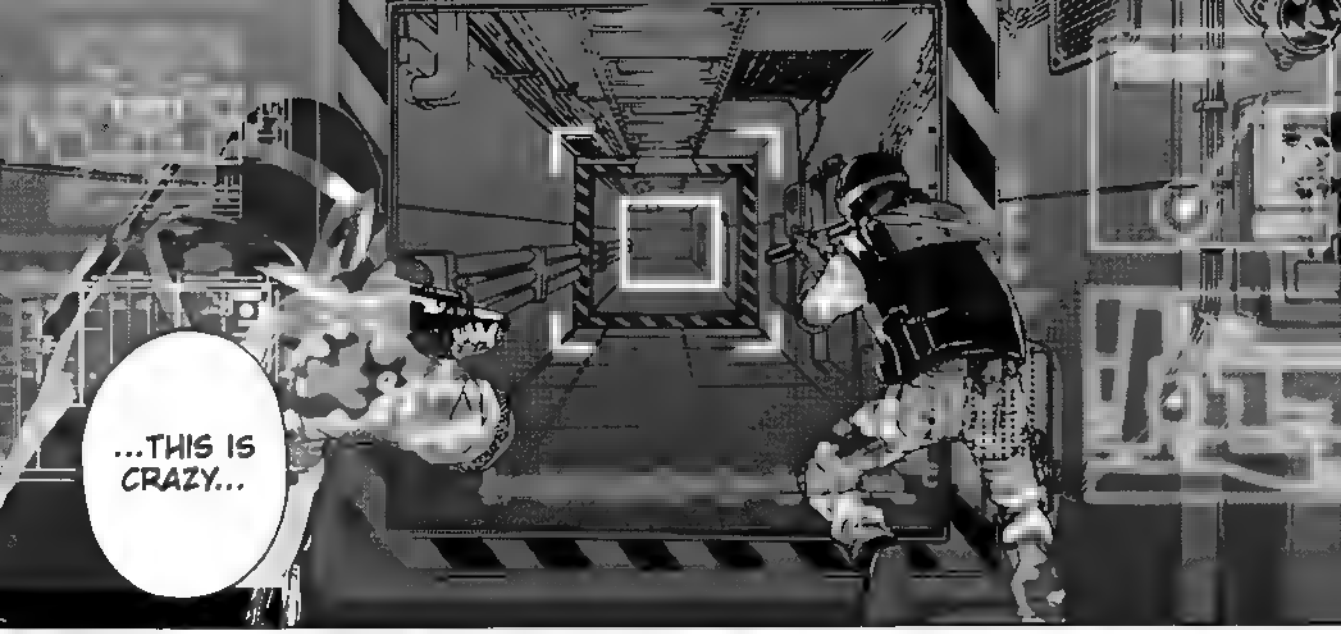
WE JUST HAD TO LOCATE THE SOURCE OF THE JAMMING SIGNAL.
PASHU
PASHU
AND WE FOUND TRACES OF YOUR SPECIAL SPRAY THERE.
DON
DON (BLAM)
DA
DA
DA
DA

BLADE!
PIPI (BEEP)
ピピッ
Blade
!?
.....
DA (DASH)
ダッ
DOGA (WHAM)
ドガッ
...WHAT'S THE RUSH!?
CHARLIE, BACK BLADE UP!

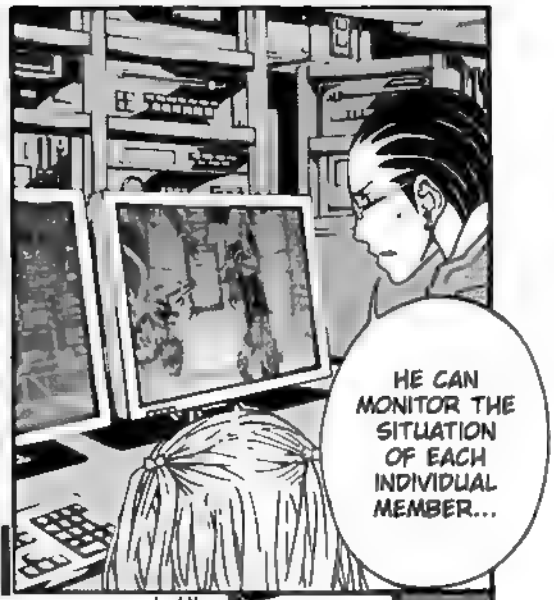
GYA (FLASH)
GYA
GYA
ROGER.
No friendlies on the right deck.
Bravo, maintain pressure and protect Team Charlie's back!
DADADADA (RAT-TAT)
DON BYANG
KAN (CLANG)
DON
Sierra !!
I'M HERE.
I'm putting Team Delta on defense.
Wait for backup, lead the car out of the ship, and rejoin the group.
KACHA (KCHUNK)
PASHU (PSHOO)
PASHU
PASHU
PASHU
PASHU
PASHU

OSCAR AND MIKE, NEUTRALIZE THE CONTROL ROOM.
QUEBEC AND ZULU, HOLD THE LEFT CORRIDOR.
KOK (NOD)
Roger!
DADADADA (RAT-TAT)
HAVE PAPA OPEN THE DOOR.
ROGER.
PASHU
PASHU
ALL CLEAR !!
PASHU
BAN (SLAM)
PASHU
PASHU
PASHU (PSHOO)

GYA (FLASH)
GYA
GYA
PASHU
PASHU
PASHU
DON'T LET A SINGLE ONE OF THEM GET AWAY!
DON
DON (BANG)


...THIS IS CRAZY...

...AND IS COMMANDING THEM ALL SIMULTANEOUSLY, EVEN WHILE ENGAGING IN THE BATTLE HIMSELF?


HE CAN MONITOR THE SITUATION OF EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER...

OUR TEAM AS A WHOLE IS BETTER...

!?

Echo! You're too far ahead!! You want your own team to put a bullet in your back!!?
...I CAN'T SEE ANYONE STOPPING THIS TEAM! THAT ALFA'S SOME KIND OF MONSTER...
ダダダ
DADA (DASH)

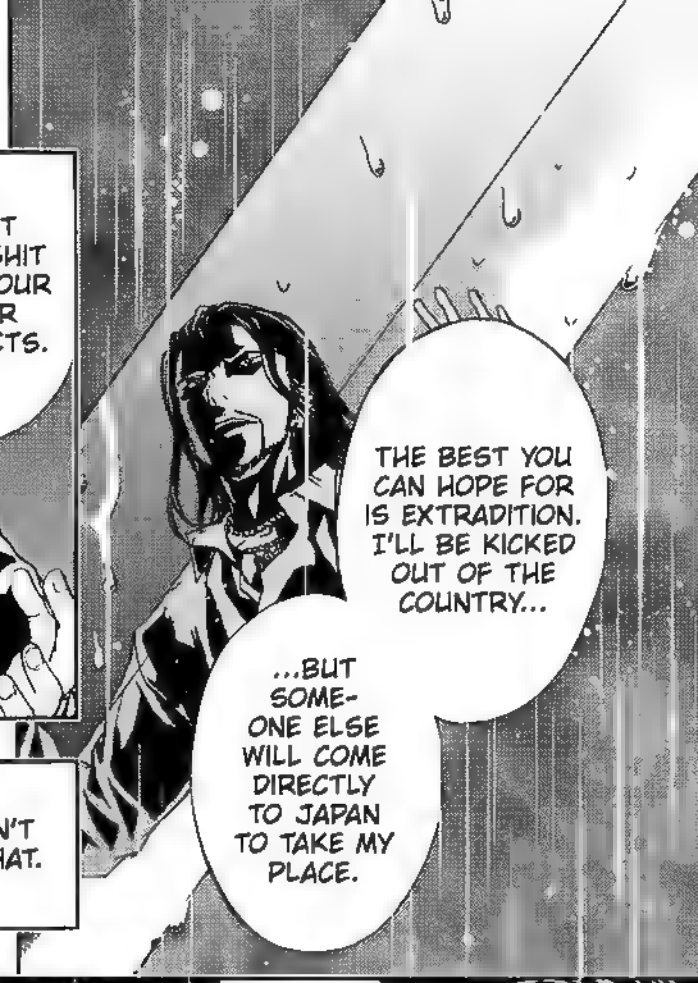
DOS-HAA (TSUMM)
GORO (RUMBLE)
GORO
GORO
HAAH!
HAAH!

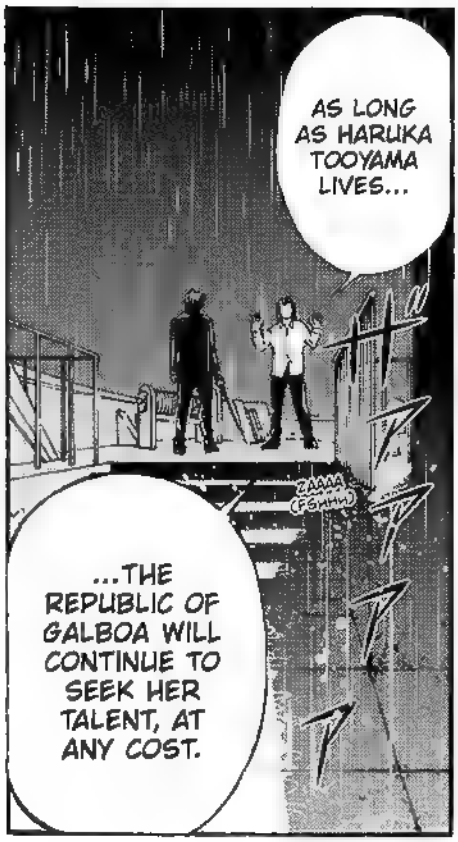
ピチャ (SPLISH)
THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU GO.
!
ZAAAAA (FSHH)

...I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE...
...BUT JUDGING BY YOUR SOFT METHODS, I'M GOING TO GUESS YOU DON'T DEAL IN MURDER...
HMPH.
ゴン
GON (CLUNK)
FINE. DO WITH ME AS YOU SEE FIT.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'M A DIPLOMAT.
.....?
.....
THE POLICE DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ARREST ME. YOU'RE FREE TO TRY IF YOU LIKE.
!?

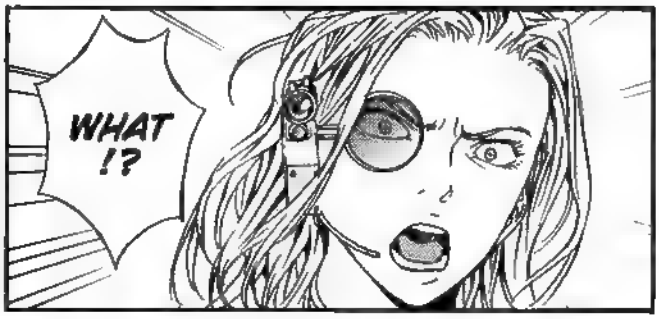
I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT YOUR CAREER PROSPECTS.
...HAND OVER THE GIRL'S DATA.

I CAN'T DO THAT.

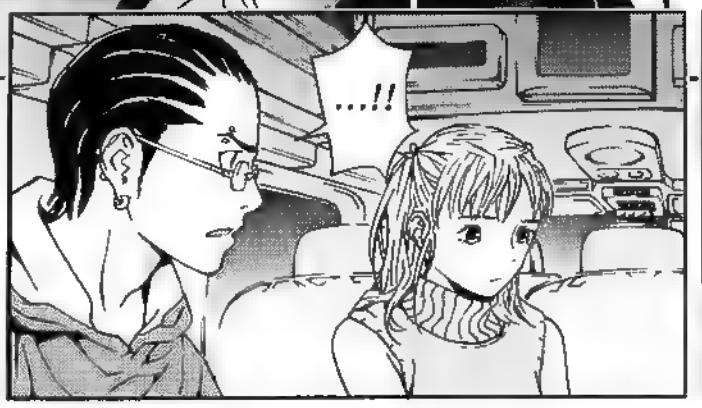

THE BEST YOU CAN HOPE FOR IS EXTRADITION. I'LL BE KICKED OUT OF THE COUNTRY...
...BUT SOME-ONE ELSE WILL COME DIRECTLY TO JAPAN TO TAKE MY PLACE.


AS LONG AS HARUKA TOOYAMA LIVES...
ZAAAA (FSHHH)
...THE REPUBLIC OF GALBOA WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK HER TALENT, AT ANY COST.

!?
I'VE ALREADY SENT IT BACK HOME.


WHAT !?

IN FACT, THE HARDER YOU TRY TO PROTECT HER...
...THE MORE THE TALES OF HER ABILITIES WILL SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE UNDERWORLD, WHICH WILL ONLY INCREASE THE COMPETITION.


...!!

YES.
コク
KOKU (NOD)

DID YOU KNOW...
...THIS WOULD HAPPEN...?

FROM THE MOMENT I FIRST CALLED OUT TO MAMORU-SAN...I WAS PREPARED FOR THIS.
FROM THAT INSTANT ON...
...HE WOULD BE THE ONLY PERSON ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO PROTECT ME...
THAT'S... WHAT I FELT...
カツカツカツ
KA
KA
KA
ガチッ
GACHI (KCHAK)
...FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE... AND SHE'S ONLY TWELVE YEARS OLD...
KA (CLACK)
カツカツカツ
KA
KA
-KCHAK-

.....
...YOU CAN'T, SIERRA...
DAMMIT ...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA !!
...SHUT UP...
GA (WHOOSH)

PISHA (SPLISH)
PISHA
I COULD GUT YOU LIKE A FISH RIGHT NOW...
...BUT THAT WOULDN'T SATISFY THE RAGE.
NGH...

YOU THINK YOUR BOSS WILL HAVE ANY USE FOR YOU IN THAT STATE?
I WANT YOU TO LIVE WITH REGRET EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE, FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャッ
!?
...IN WHAT STATE ...?
ZAAAAA (FSHHH)
...
AMATEUR
...

IF I CAN JUST GET OUT OF THE RANGE OF HIS SWORD...
カッ
KA (FLASH)
GA (GRAB)
!?

ドカ

BASHU (BLAM/RSH)

ドカ

DOSHA (SPLOTCH)

ドカ

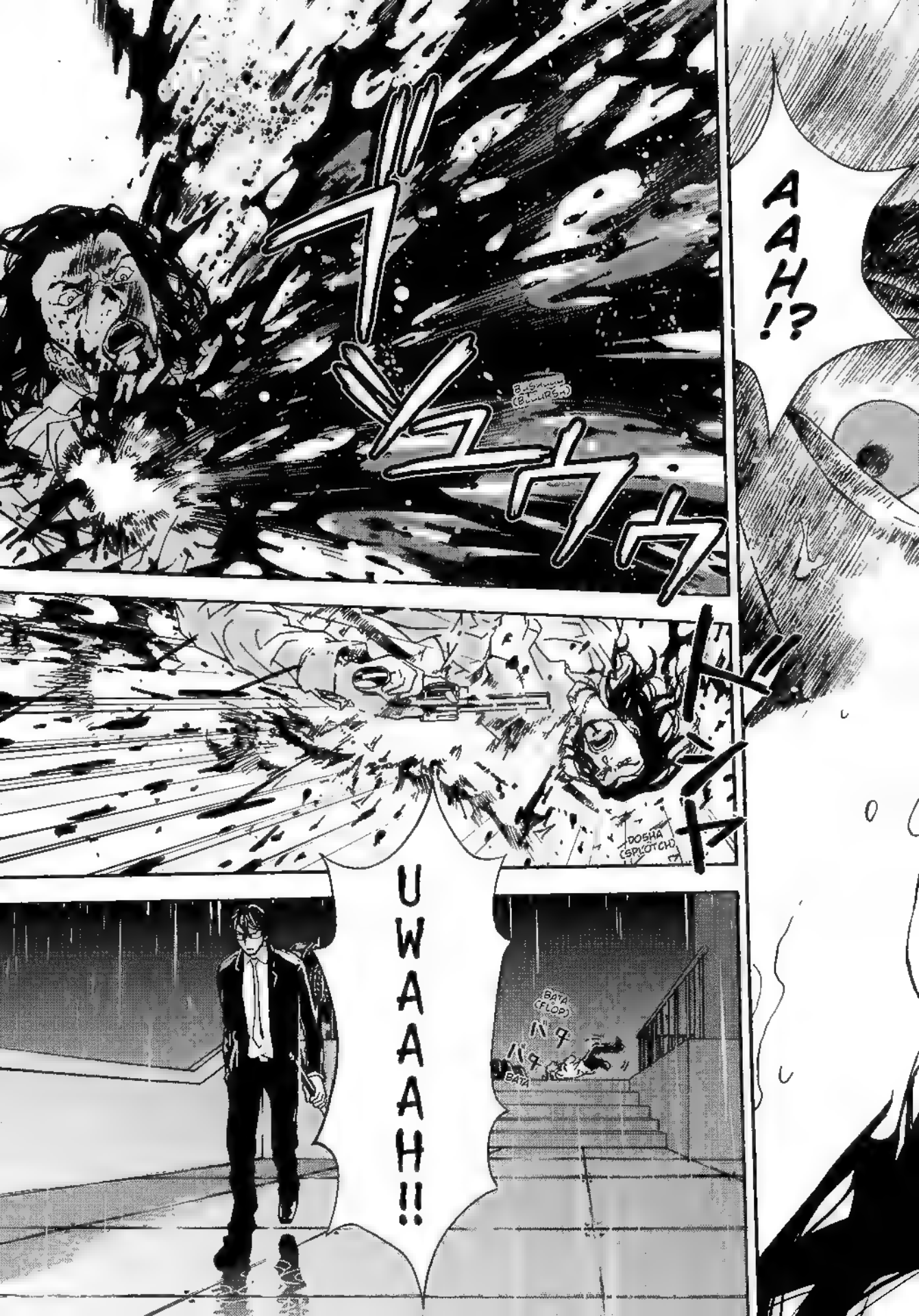
UWAAAH!!

BATA (FLOP)

バタ

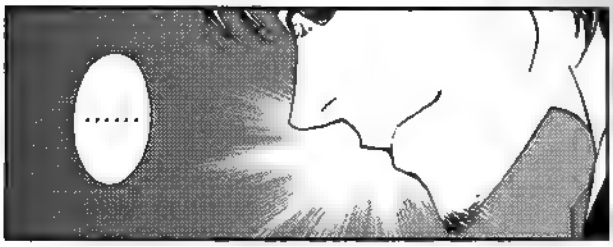
バタ

AAH!?


AAH!?
BUSHU (BURST)
DOSHA (SPLOTCH)
UWAAAH!!
BATA (FLOP)
BATA

AAAAAH!!
HMPH...
ZAAAA (FSHHH)
ONCE YOU'VE DISABLED ALL THE EXPLOSIVES, WE'RE PULLING OUT.
EVERYONE INTO YOUR FINAL CHECKS!

...HARUKA MUST HAVE REJECTED ME.
SHE KNOWS I CAN'T PROTECT HER ON MY OWN.
LOSING HARUKA WILL LEAD TO TERRIBLE REGRET.
.....
I THINK YOU WENT OVERBOARD, BUT I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR IT.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE WE ACTUALLY HAVE TO LET A PIECE OF SHIT LIKE HIM LIVE.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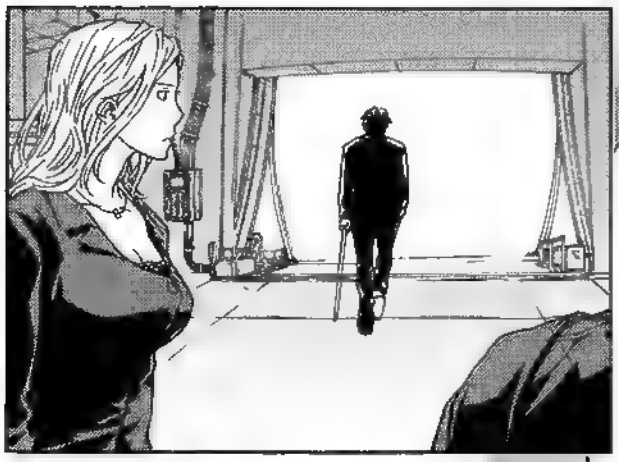


I WILL SAY THIS. IF HE THINKS HE CAN PULL SOMETHING AGAIN...
...HE'S GOING TO REGRET IT WHEN HE RUNS INTO US. DEEPLY REGRET IT.

"UNTIL DEATH DO US PART."
CAN'T STOP THIS TRAIN NOW THAT I'M ON IT...
WELL...
HARUKA.
LET'S GO, IGAWA...
HUH?
ALL RIGHT...

COMING!
TA (TAP)
タ TA タ TA タ TA

力
KA
GUSH

Until
Death
do us
Part

chapter 23

ZAWA (MURMUR)
ザワザワ
ZAWA
ガヤガヤ
GAYA (CHATTER)
GAYA
ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORT, THE CRIMINAL GROUP WAS—
THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE INSIDE THIS CARGO SHIP—

The gun-fight, which occurred late last night onboard the *Ivory*, a Galboan cargo freighter...
...is being investigated for possible connections to the recent slaughter at Ex Solid's central research facility based on several glaring similarities.
Surviving members of the criminal group have not offered a word of testimony at this point...
...and the incident remains shrouded in mystery...
RRRR
RRR
?

H...
HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER ...?
We eviscerated them, as promised.
...WHAT THE HELL ...?
... HELLO ...?
Narita Airpo
DON'T STRESS OVER THE LITTLE DETAILS.

NJA flight 905...
...will be delayed fifteen minutes.
NJA flight 905...
Yeah. I owe you one.
Thanks.
SO YOU CALLED TO BID FAREWELL TO A COP ON PROBATION?
WHAT HAPPENED TO EDGE TURUS?
?
Wait.

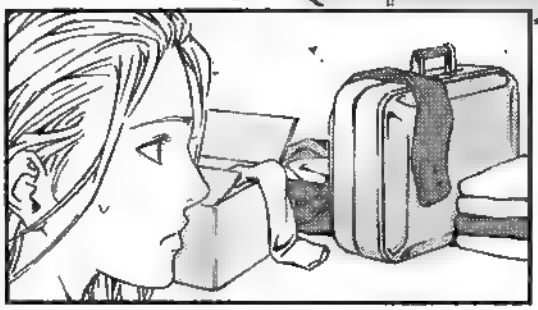
HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN.
!?
HE WASN'T ABOARD THE CARGO SHIP?
NOPE.
HASN'T GONE BACK TO THE EMBASSY EITHER.
.....
.....
BURORORO (VRRMM)

WE WERE ABLE TO ADDRESS THE MATTER WHILE KEEPING THE DAMAGE TO A MINIMUM.
THANKS FOR YESTERDAY.
YOU SAVED OUR ASSES.
NO.
WE SHOULD THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

OUCH!
ガタッ
GATA (THUNK)
?
...WHERE ARE MAMORU AND HARUKA?
WELL, YOU DON'T NEED TO MOVE THE FURNITURE TO CLEAN!
SEE? I TOLD YOU NOT TO MESS AROUND IN MY ROOM!
I'M SORRY, BUT...
...I JUST WANTED TO GIVE IT A GOOD CLEANING SINCE IT'S SO DIRTY ...

YOU'VE SHIFTED EVERYTHING A FEW INCHES, AND I CAN'T TELL WHERE STUFF IS NOW!
...SORRY...

OH...
...IGAWA... ALFA...AND SIERRA?



KON (KNOCK)
コン
コン
KON

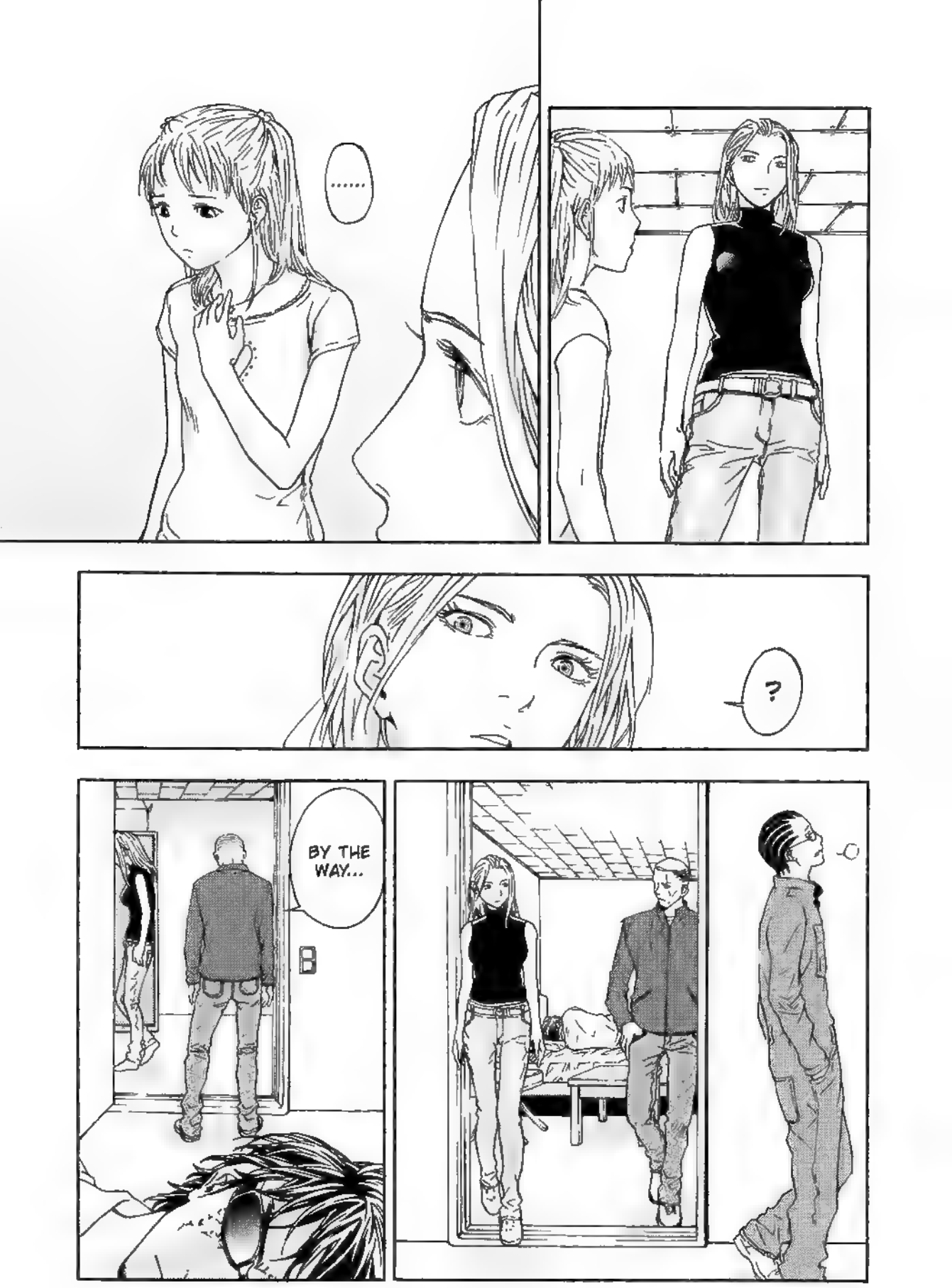
I THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE LEFT BY NOW.
I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU CAN IDENTIFY US WITHOUT SIGHT.
I CAN GET BY ON FOOT-STEPS AND SMELL.
AND IGAWA NEVER KNOCKS.
WE ONLY SUCCEEDED BECAUSE THE OTHER GUYS WERE CARELESS AND STUPID.
IT WASN'T ANY PARTICULAR FEAT ON OUR PART.
THE TEAM IS LEAVING IN GROUPS. MY FLIGHT IS TONIGHT.
I WANTED TO THANK YOU WHILE I HAD THE CHANCE.

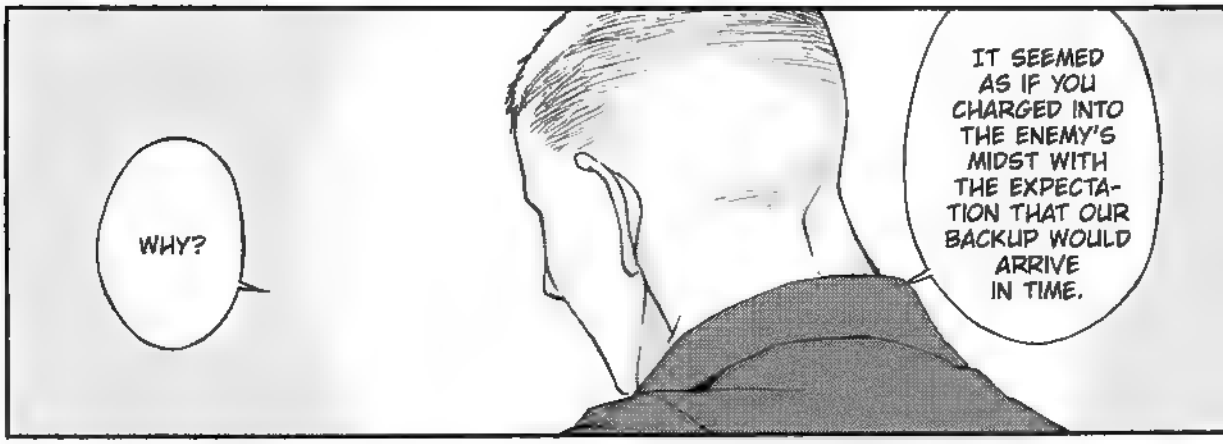
IT'S TRUE THAT TERRORISTS ARE BETTER AT ATTACKING THAN DEFEND-ING THEM-SELVES.
...IF YOU SAY SO...
THAT, AND THE INDOOR BATTLE WORKED IN OUR FAVOR.
.....
THE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR FIREARMS WAS GONE...
...AND THEY COULDN'T USE EXPLOSIVES FOR FEAR OF TAKING OUT THEIR OWN.

.....
...AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THE URBAN COMBAT EXPERT.
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
...
...UNBE-LIEVABLE...
IS THIS WHAT YOU CAME TO TALK ABOUT?
OH, RIGHT.
?

I WANT TO LEAVE SIERRA HERE WITH YOU.
GIVEN THE SPECIAL NATURE OF THE GIRL'S SITUATION...
!?
WHAT ...?

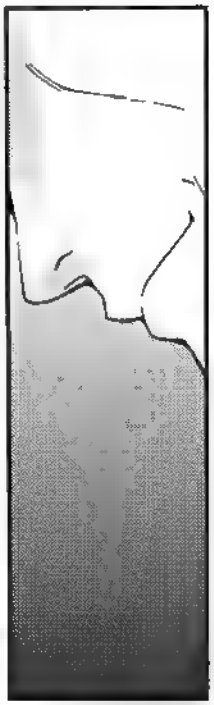
SHE NEEDS A WOMAN AROUND.
.....
...WE CAN'T LEAVE HER WITH RELATIVES, AN ORPHANAGE, OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ELEMENT NETWORK.
AND LEAVING HER ALONE WITH TWO GROWN MEN WOULD BE AN AWKWARD SITUATION FOR ANY GIRL HER AGE.
I SEE NO REASON TO ARGUE...
DO WHAT YOU WANT.
ボスッ
BOSU (PLUMP)
THIS WAS PARTIALLY AT SIERRA'S OWN REQUEST ...
...AND HAS ALREADY BEEN CLEARED WITH THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.


.....
?
BY THE WAY...


WHY?
IT SEEMED AS IF YOU CHARGED INTO THE ENEMY'S MIDST WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT OUR BACKUP WOULD ARRIVE IN TIME.

NO OTHER REASON.
BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE PROS.

GACHA (CLICK)



...
...I'M SORRY...
...!?

IF I'D PINNED DOWN THEIR BASE A LITTLE BIT SOONER...
...YOU'D BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO A NORMAL LIFE.
.....
...I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN ...
...IT'S ALL RIGHT...

WE CAN'T DEDICATE THE WHOLE TEAM'S RESOURCES TO WATCHING HER AROUND THE CLOCK.
AND THERE'S PLENTY OF OTHER CRIME TO DEAL WITH AROUND THE WORLD.
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO SELFISH, CAPTAIN.
WE JUST HAVE TO PUT OUR TRUST IN BLADE.
LISTEN TO ME, SIERRA.
THE BEST REASON FOR CRIME-HUNTERS TO USE A CRIMINAL...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?
...IS THAT NO MATTER WHO DIES, THE NUMBER OF CRIMINALS IN THE WORLD DECREASES...

BLADE'S A POWERFUL, DANGEROUS MAN.
BUT IF HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT PROTECTING HARUKA TOOYAMA ...
THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS SIMPLY HIRED TO BE A PART OF THE PROJECT.
BUT THERE ARE CERTAINLY PEOPLE IN THE NETWORK WHO FEEL THAT WAY.
...I SEE.
...AND THAT WILL BE MY JOB...
...HE'LL NEED TO FIGHT AGAINST THOSE OPINIONS.
AS LONG AS HE'S HOLDING TO THOSE RULES, I THINK HE CAN BE TRUSTED.
PLUS, IT'S NOTE-WORTHY THAT HE HASN'T ACTUALLY KILLED ANYONE SO FAR.

BUT IF HE BREAKS THAT CODE, HE'LL BE THE NETWORK'S MOST DANGEROUS OPPONENT.
AND IF IT COMES TO THAT, IT WILL FALL TO US TO STOP HIM.
MONITORING BLADE IS ALSO PART OF YOUR ROLE HERE.

I SUP-POSE THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...
...THEY'RE FATED TO TRAVEL A PATH OF BLOODSHED ...

.....
I UNDER-STAND...

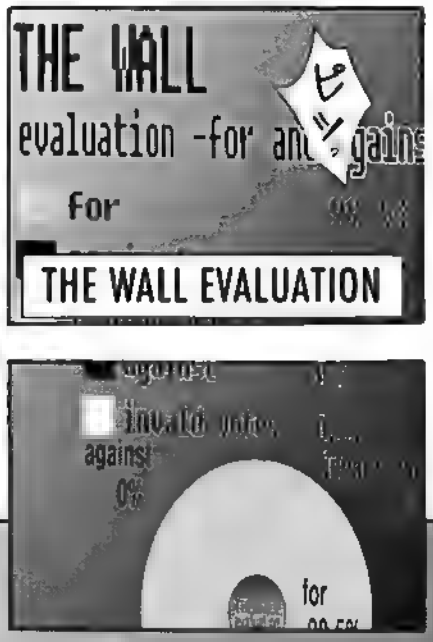
BURORORO (VRMMM)
OF COURSE ...
...I'D HATE TO HAVE TO FIGHT A MAN WHO SHOWED SUCH FAITH IN OUR ABILITIES...

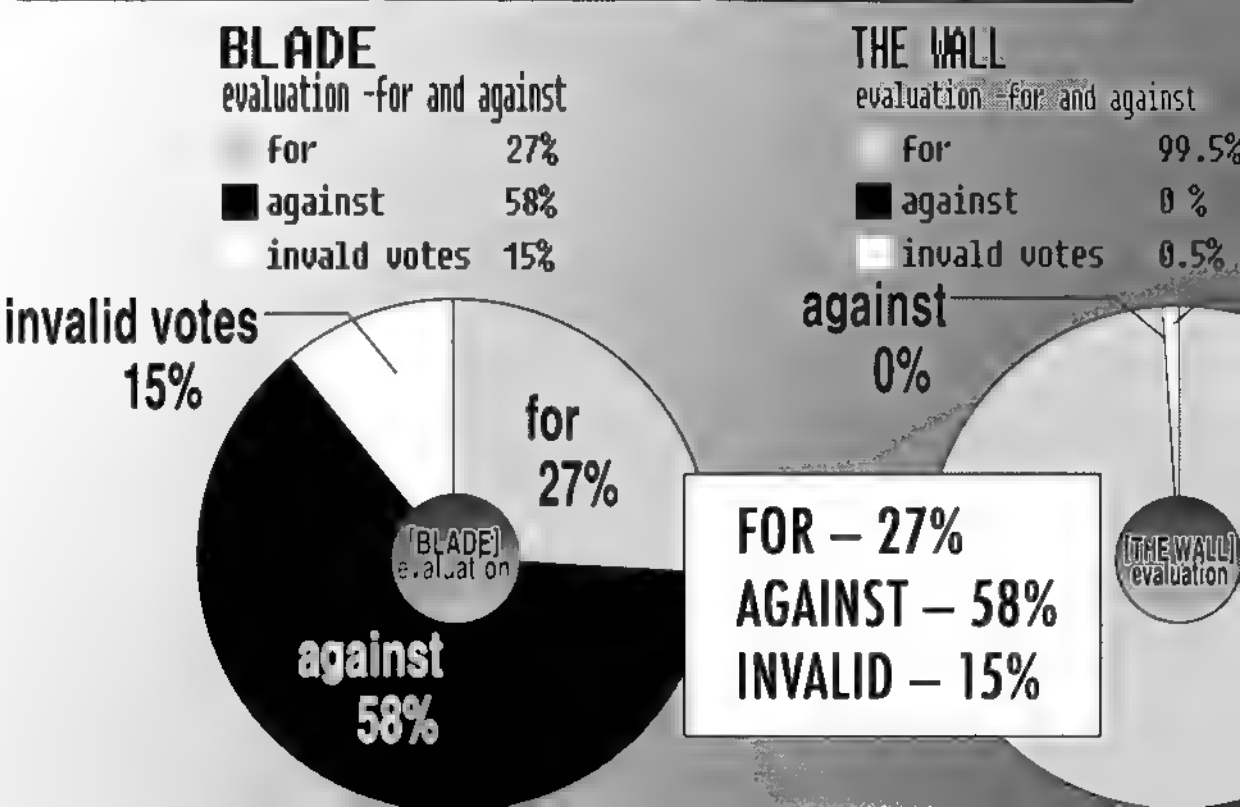
.....
KACHA
KACHA (CLINK)
GAAAA (VRRRRR)
ガーン
State of evaluation by selection
Pi (CLICK)

State of evaluation by selection members
The final notice
NETWORK MEMBER EVALUATION POLL: FINAL RESULTS

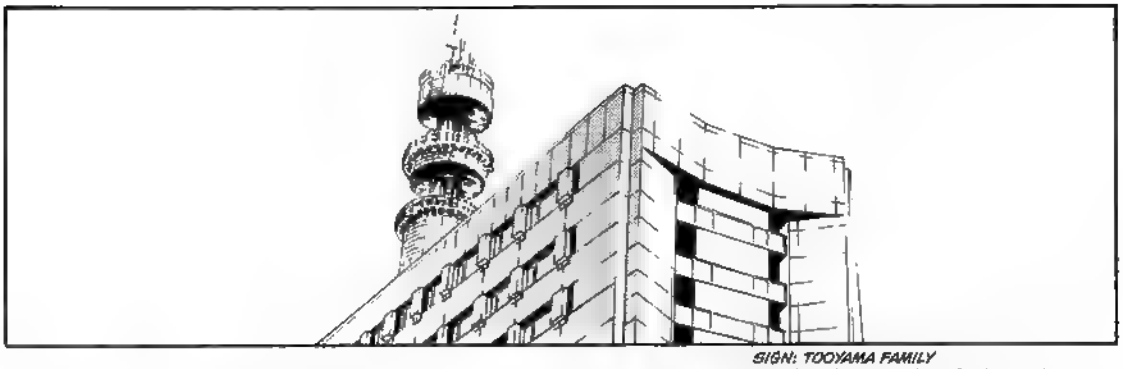
BLADE
evaluation -
for
against
invald vo
BLADE EVALUATION

THE WALL
evaluation -for and against
for 99.5%
against 0 %
invalid votes 0.5%
against 0%
invalid votes
for 99.5%
FOR – 99.5%
AGAINST – 0%
INVALID – 0.5%


THE WALL
evaluation -for and gains
for
THE WALL EVALUATION
against 0%
for


BLADE
evaluation -for and against
for 27%
against 58%
invald votes 15%
THE WALL
evaluation -for and against
for 99.5%
against 0 %
invald votes 0.5%
invalid votes 15%
for 27%
against 58%
[BLADE] evaluation
against 0%
[THE WALL] evaluation
FOR – 27%
AGAINST – 58%
INVALID – 15%

Until
Death
do us
Part



SIGN: TOOYAMA FAMILY DISAPPEARANCE INVESTIGATION OFFICE

遠山一家失踪事件対策本部

ガヤ GAYA (MURMUR)

ガヤ GAYA

ザワ ZAWA

ザワ ZAWA (MURMUR)

PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOU, OFFICER GENDA.

...RIGHT TO THE SCENE...
SURE...
SO WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
WELL, WELL...
GACHA
GACHA (CLACK)

chapter 24

WHAT'S THE BACK-GROUND OF THE CASE?
KYU (TUG)
HUH?
YOU MEAN... YOU DON'T KNOW?

AN ENTIRE FAMILY—KEIICHI AND SHINOBU TOOYAMA AND THEIR DAUGHTER HARUKA...
...HAVE BEEN MISSING FOR ABOUT A WEEK, WITH NO SIGNS OF REAPPEARING.
I'M ONLY ONE DAY OFF OF A PROBATION STINT.
TAPE: POLICE DEPARTMENT
...HAVE I...SEEN THIS GIRL BEFORE .....?
WE RECEIVED A MISSING PERSONS NOTICE THREE DAYS AGO FROM THE GRANDMOTHER, MINORI TOOYAMA.
...

THERE ARE SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE INSIDE THE HOUSE, BUT WE HAVE NO WITNESSES ...
...A LACK OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE, AND NO IDEA OF A TIMETABLE.
K...
(CREAK)
.....
WE'RE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITIES OF EITHER ROBBERY OR A PERSONAL GRUDGE.
HONESTLY, I'D PUT OUR CHANCES AT FINDING THEM ALIVE CLOSE TO NIL.
TCH...

.....
ガチャッ
GACHA (CLUNK)
HARUKA!
ARE YOU HOME, DEAR!?
.....
OHH ...
ヘタッ
BETA (SLUMP)
OHHH ...
PLEASE ...
PLEASE, OFFICER ...
...FIND THEM.

FIND MY GRAND-DAUGHTER ...
BRING HER BACK SAFELY.
TOO-YAMA-SAN...
I'M AFRAID THE BUILDING IS STILL OFF-LIMITS.
...PLEASE, OFFICERS ...
... PLEASE ...
...TCH...

YIKES... HE'S SCARY...
.....

HUH!? UH...
...THAT'S WHAT THE REPORT SAYS, SIR.
.....
THAT LOOKS LIKE OUR POINT OF ENTRY...
!!?
ACCORDING TO FOREN-SICS...

BA
(DASH)

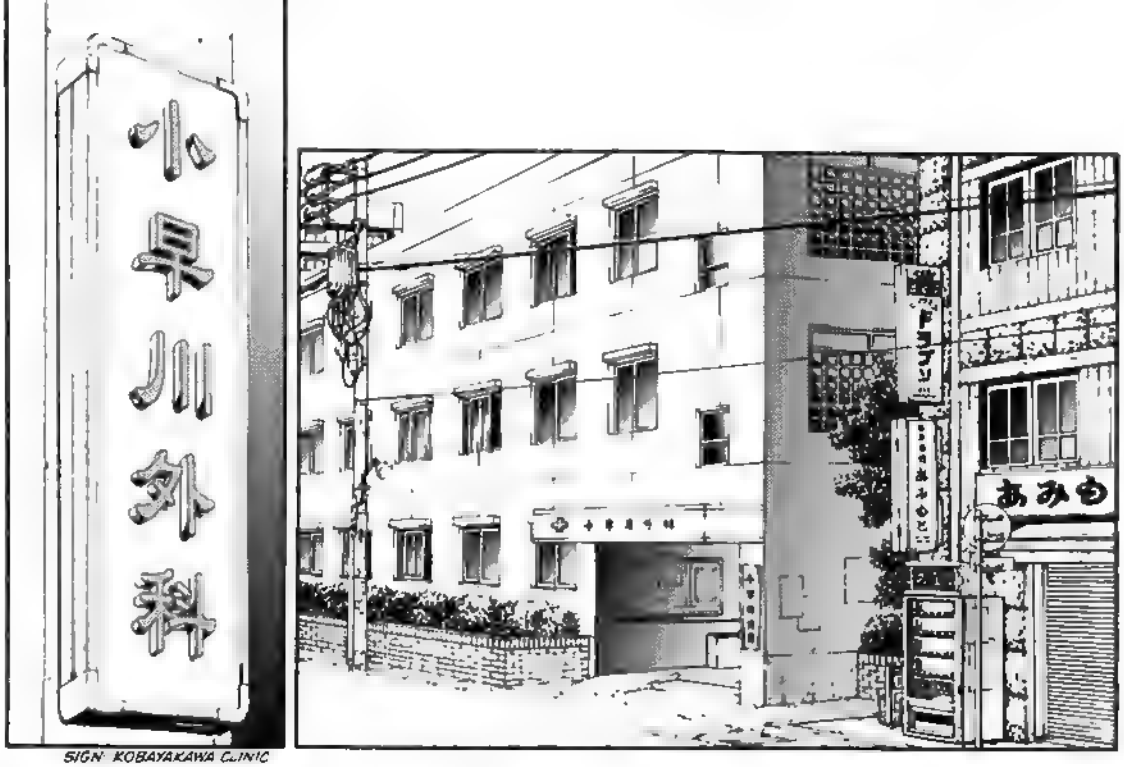
HUH
?
DA
(DASH)

WAIT...
GENDA-
SAN?
TA
(TMP)
TA

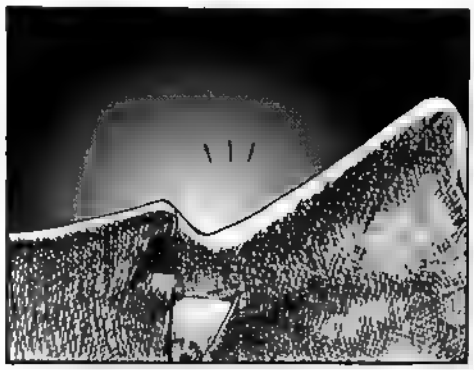
CHA (CHAK)
DA
DA
DA
BUOOO (VRMMM)
KIKIKI (SCREECH)

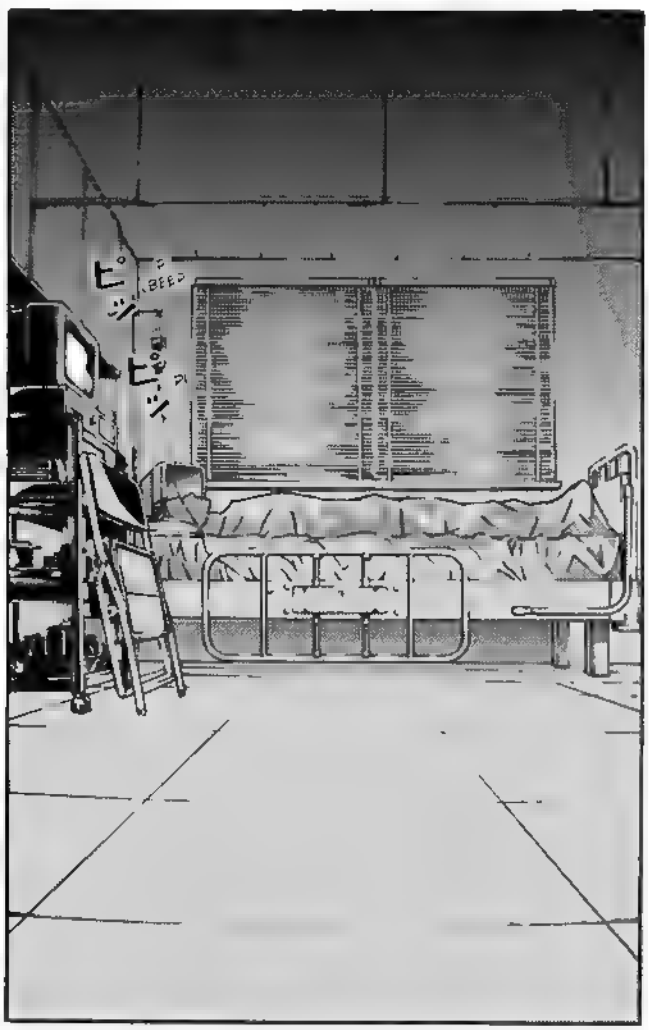
SHIT!
SO HE WAS... STAKING OUT A HOUSE WITH NO ONE INSIDE IT?
HA HA...
WH- WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT!?
HAA
HAA (HUFF)

OUR VICTIMS MIGHT BE ALIVE AFTER ALL.
...HUH!?
I'D HEARD THE RUMORS...
...AND NOW I BELIEVE THEM! JUST MY LUCK TO BE PAIRED UP WITH THIS GUY ...
=MUTTER=
=MUTTER=



SIGN: KOBAYAKAWA CLINIC





PARDON THE INTRUSION... PROFESSOR.
OUR OWN LEADER'S BEING SEEN TO ON THE FLOOR RIGHT BELOW US.
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?
THE SYNDICATE'S ALWAYS HAD A GOOD RELATION-SHIP WITH THIS CLINIC.

YOU'RE STILL OF USE TO US, PROFESSOR.
YOUR BLACK MARKET CONNEC-TIONS, FOR INSTANCE.
...WHY WOULD YOU SAVE A MAN FORSAKEN EVEN BY HIS OWN COUNTRY?
YOUR LIMBS HAVE BEEN REATTACHED, BUT THEY WON'T HAVE THE SAME DEGREE OF MOBILITY AS BEFORE.
HARD FOR A MAN WHO CAN'T RUN TO MAKE A LIVING ON THE FRONT LINE.
...MY... BODY...
UNTIL NOW, YOU WERE ONE OF THE DEADLIEST MEN IN GALBOA.
THAT BASTARD'S SKILLS ARE THE REAL DEAL.

BUT... TO THINK THAT SUCH A WEAK, SOFT-MINDED FOOL...
...WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO AN UNRESISTING MAN...
IF IT HAD BEEN A FAIR FIGHT, HE NEVER WOULD HAVE BEATEN ME!
(SNAP)
I UNDERESTIMATED HIM!
...ARE YOU SURE HE WASN'T TRYING TO SAY, "REGRET THIS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE"?
!!?

KNOWING THAT YOU WOULD RUE YOUR SINGLE LAPSE IN JUDGMENT FOREVER...?
...
REGRET FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE...

CALL FOR FANG.

FANG?
...FANG THE ASSASSIN?
WE'LL NEED A KILLER OF THAT CALIBER ...
...IF WE WANT TO TAKE DOWN THAT SWORDS-MAN.

I'LL PUT THIS ONE ON A TAB FOR YOU.
YOU GOT IT.
HEH HEH...
BATAN (SLAM)

IF I LET HIM WALK FREE...
...EVERY-THING WORKS OUT FOR ME.
THE BOSS IS OUT OF THE PICTURE...
NOW THIS IS RICH...
HA HA HA HA HA!
HEH HEH...
...AND I JUST GOT THE CON-NECTION I WANTED.

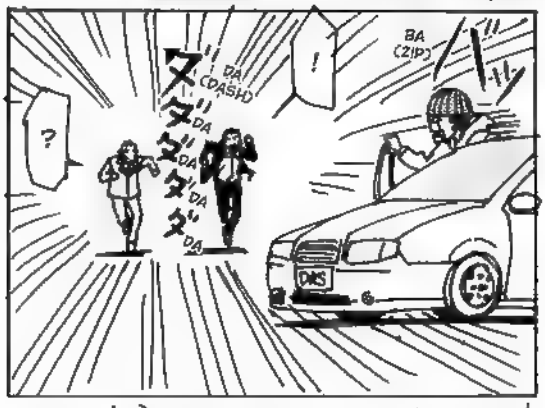
AT THIS RATE, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I SIT AT THE HEAD OF THE ENTIRE JAPANESE UNDER-WORLD.
HA HA HA...

Until
Death
do us
Part

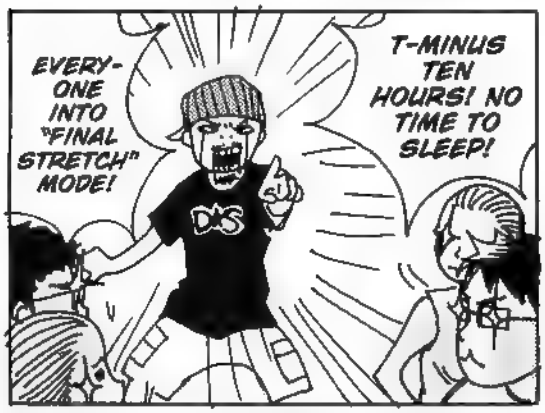
おまけページ
OMAKE PAGE
RUN! DIE
D★S

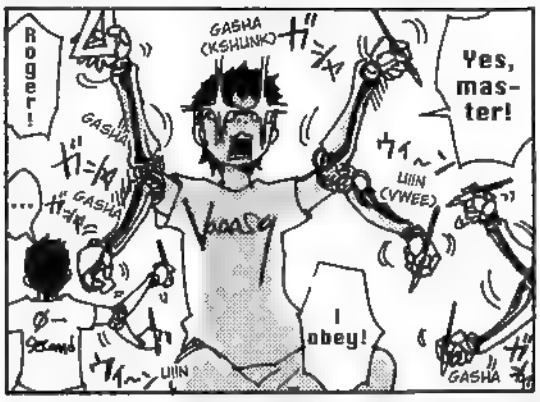
...WE FOUND THE TIME TO CREATE THESE FABULOUS FOUR-PANEL COMICS!
I HATE DEAD-LINES!
WHILE THE AUTHOR AND STAFF HAD THEIR BACKS AGAINST THE WALL OF FLAMES THAT IS THE DEADLINE...
SAHA!
ウオオオオオ
OHHHHHH!
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.
FROM WHAT WE CAN TELL, IT SEEMS TO BE A MANGA STUDIO.
IT'S CLEARLY SOME SORT OF CULT COMPOUND!
POLICE LINE • keepout — POLICE
EVERYONE WHO PAID FOR THIS BOOK, HERE COMES THE SPECIAL STAGE, JUST FOR YOU!
OH YEAH! VOLUME 3, BABY!
D★S
ウオ
WOOO!
うお
WOOOO!
ウオオ
WOOOO~
...
FOX, MY LOVE!

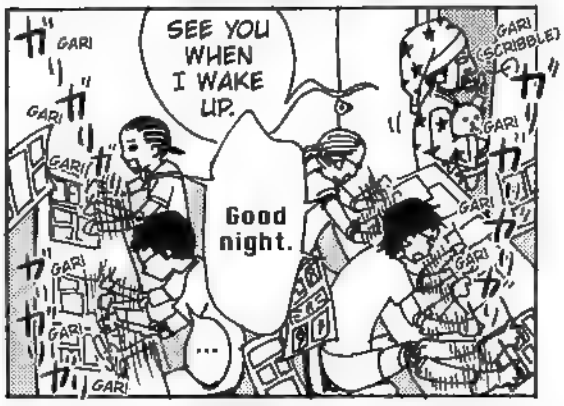
Natural-Born Policeman D☆S



The Perfect Assistant D☆S







Double-S

The Runaway NGO!

by euzue

Criminal Hunting

by VaaasQ

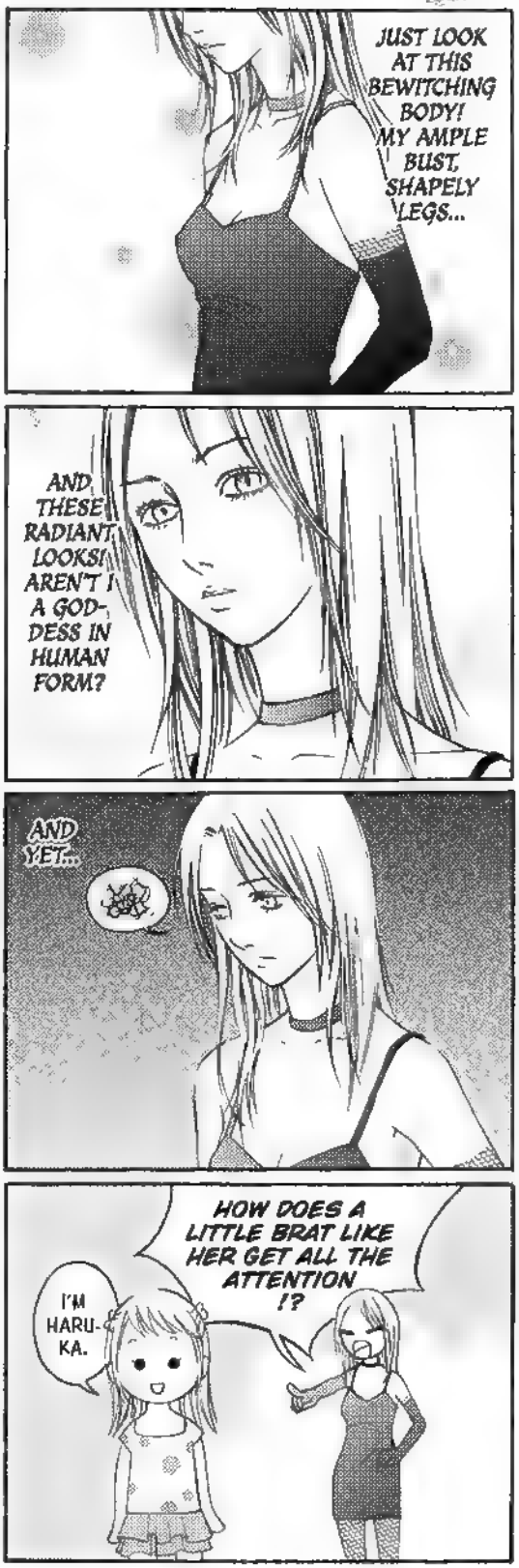
UM..
YEAH.
WE'RE GONNA GET MARRIED, HARUKA-CHAN!?
NO FREAKIN' WAY! HARUKA JUST STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL!
HOW'S SHE GONNA GET ROMANTIC WITH AN OLD DUDE LIKE MAMORU!?
SUKU (RISE)
スクッ
THIS IS A CRIME!
IT'S MESSED UP!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WORK FEELING LIKE THIS!
ACK!
GYUUUU (SQUEEZE)
ギュウウウウ
LET GO!
IT'S NOT A CRIME, IT'S CALLED BEING A "WINNER"! SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND!

Power Level?

by 0-second

Serena's Depression

by Suri


JUST LOOK AT THIS BEWITCHING BODY! MY AMPLE BUST, SHAPELY LEGS...
AND THESE RADIANT LOOKS! AREN'T I A GOD-DESS IN HUMAN FORM?
AND YET...
HOW DOES A LITTLE BRAT LIKE HER GET ALL THE ATTENTION !?
I'M HARU-KA.

Art Staff
VaaasQ (23) ♂: Background Art
0-Second (21) ♂: Background Art
Euzue (24) ♀: Screentones
Suri (24) ♀: Background Art

Military Resources
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)

SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

Until
Death
do us
Part

ジャラ
(JARA JANGLE)
WELL, IF THE RESALE VALUE IS ABOUT 40%, THIS WOULD LAND US ABOUT...HOW MUCH?
Diamond Forever
HEH HEH HEH ...
SO HOW MUCH IS THIS HAUL GONNA BAG US?
IT'S GOTTA BE AT LEAST A HUNDRED MILLION YEN.
BUT WE CAN CRUNCH THE NUMBERS ONCE WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
YEAH ...
ガラ
(GARA)
ガラ
(GARA) (CLUNK)

!?
AAAGH!!
ZUGA (SLICE)
WATCH CLOSELY.
KOKU (SWALLOW)
コクッ

d Forever
chapter 25

Until
Death
do us
Part

AAAGH!!
JIRIRIRIRI (BOORING)
BAKI (CRACK)
GASHAAA (CRAASH)

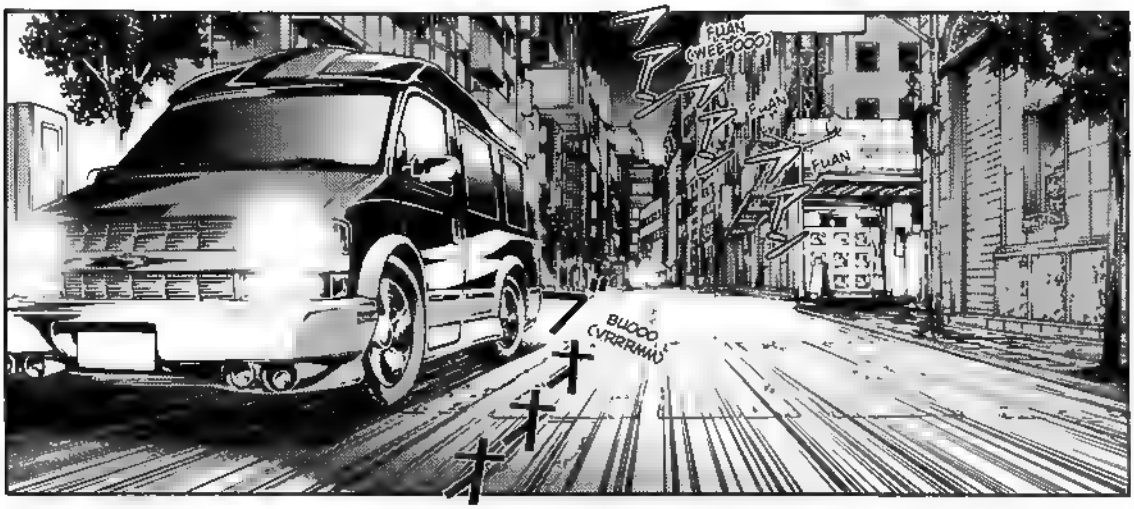
ドゴ
DOKO (WHAM)
RAAH !!
ドガシャアッ
GASHAA (CRASH)
ドカ
DOKA (SLAM)

ドカ
ドカ
ドカッ!!
DOKA
DOKA
BAK
RAK
BAM
WHAM
PASHU
(PSHT)
PASHU
PASHU

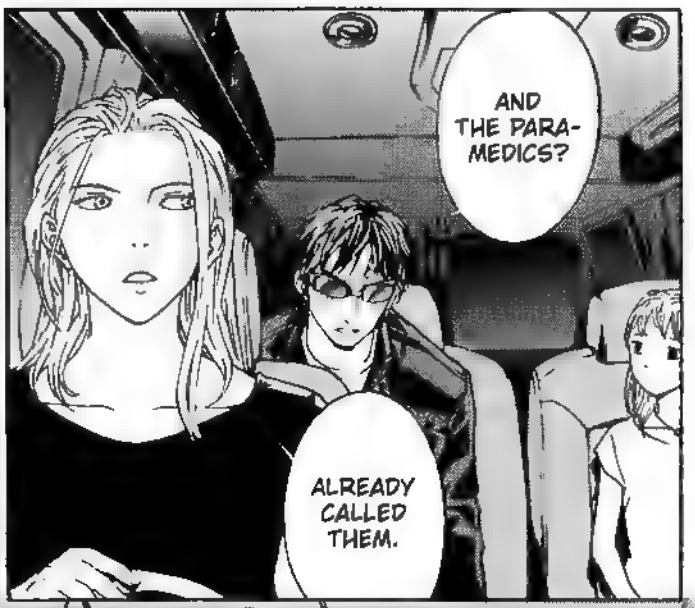
CHA (CLICK)
DOGA (SLAM)
BASHU (PSHT)
BASHU (BMF)
BASHU
PASHU

SHLO
(WOOSH)
DO
(CRUNCH)

...TIME TO MAKE MYSELF SCARCE...


¡UAN (WEEEOOO)
¡UAN
¡UAN
BUOOO (VRRRMM)

THEY'LL MAKE IT IN TIME FOR ONE OF THE VICTIMS, AT LEAST.


AND THE PARA-MEDICS?
ALREADY CALLED THEM.

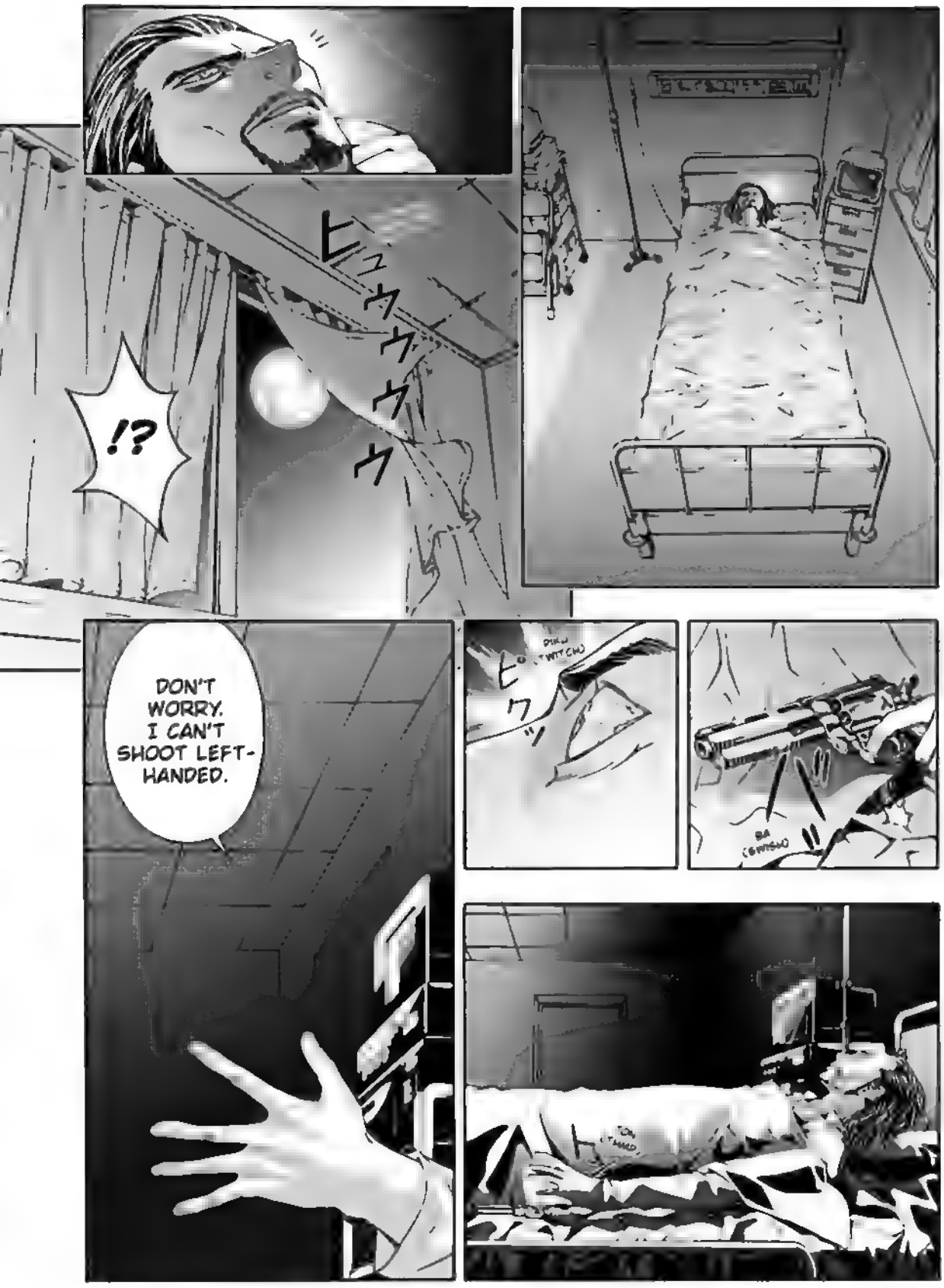
...I'M SORRY...

...WHEN THE ENEMY MAKES HIS MOVE, YOUR HAND GOES TO YOUR WEAPON ON REFLEX.
IF THEY KNOW YOU'VE GOT A WEAPON, IT HELPS YOU GET A READ ON THE ENEMY'S NEXT MOVE.
REMEMBER, YOU'RE NOT GOD.
DON'T THINK OF IT AS HAVING LOST ONE OF THE VICTIMS. THINK THAT YOU'VE SAVED ONE INSTEAD.
.....
KOKU (NOD)
YOU CAN SEE THE FUTURE, SO YOU PROBABLY KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
YES.
IF THEY LOOK AT YOUR POSITION AND EQUIPMENT AND TRY TO EVADE, YOU KNOW YOU'RE UP AGAINST SOMEONE WITH BATTLE EXPERIENCE.
IF THAT HAPPENS, DON'T STOP AND THINK. JUST RUN.
OKAY.
?

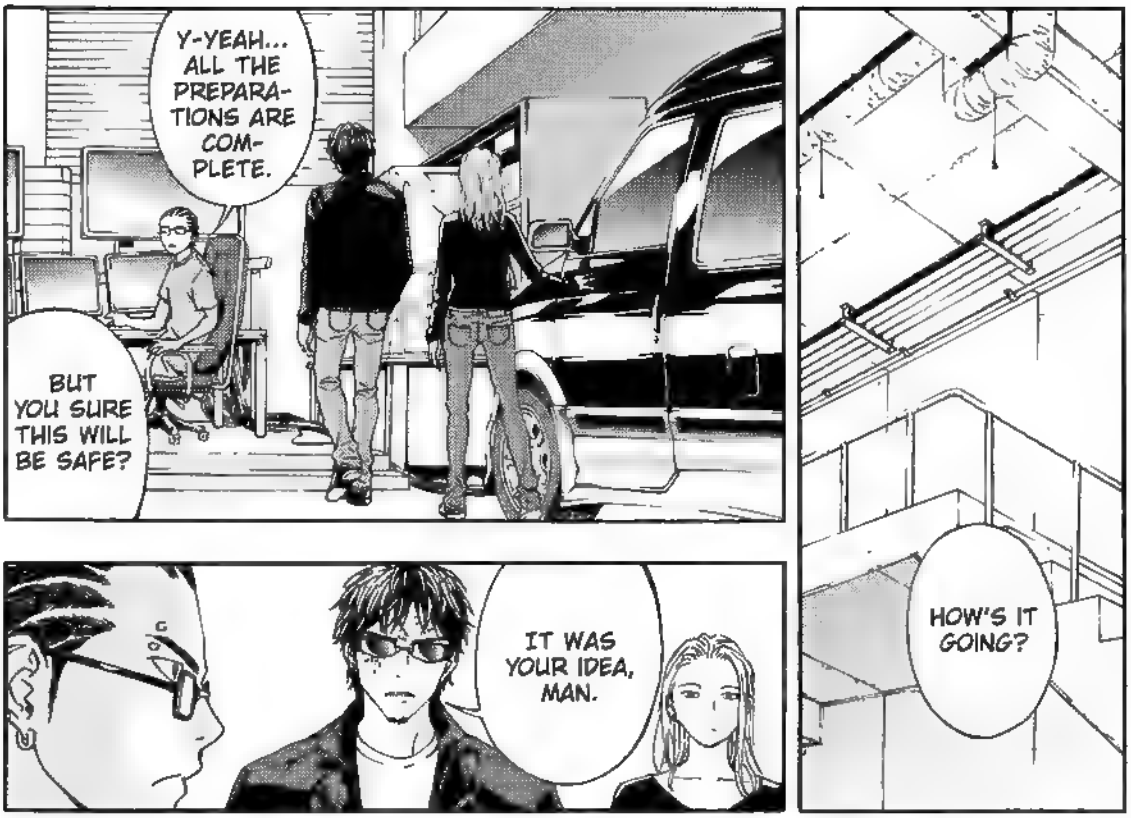
IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO STRIKE AND WHEN TO PULL BACK...
...YOU'RE DEAD.
...WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU TEACHING HER!?
I'M TEACHING HER THE BASICS ON HOW TO SURVIVE.
...TO A GIRL WHO CAN SEE THE FUTURE?
SO WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT IF SHE'S IN TROUBLE ...
...SHE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT SHE NEEDS TO DO, AND WITHOUT THINKING.
IF SHE WERE ABLE TO EVADE EVERY INSTANCE OF DANGER SHE FORESAW...
...HARUKA WOULDN'T BE IN HER CURRENT POSITION WITH US, WOULD SHE?

DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS.
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING HER 24/7, EVEN IN THE TOILET, FROM NOW TO ETERNITY? IT'S JUST NOT REALISTIC.
ISN'T IT YOUR JOB TO PROTECT HER?
IF YOU KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, YOU CAN SURVIVE ON YOUR OWN.
AND IN A WORST-CASE SCENARIO, YOU CAN AT LEAST HANG IN THERE UNTIL SIERRA OR I CAN COME TO YOUR AID.
YES.
YOU NEED AT LEAST A MINIMUM LEVEL OF SELF-PRESERVATION, ESPECIALLY GIVEN WHAT COULD HAPPEN.
GOT THAT?
...YOU COULD BE TOUGHER THAN ME.
YOU'VE GOT THE POTENTIAL. ONCE YOU LEARN THE BASICS OF FIGHTING...

AND I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE TOO.
.....
...SOME-HOW, I DOUBT THAT...
SIGN: KOBAYAKAWA CLINIC
ブオオオオオオ
OH, FINE...


ヒュウウウウ
!?
DON'T WORRY. I CAN'T SHOOT LEFT-HANDED.

THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG, "FANG" ...
.....


Y-YEAH... ALL THE PREPARA-TIONS ARE COM-PLETE.
BUT YOU SURE THIS WILL BE SAFE?
IT WAS YOUR IDEA, MAN.
HOW'S IT GOING?

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

WELL, THE CAMOUFLAGE IS PERFECT.
I MEAN, I'M NOT DOING SUCH A SLIPSHOD JOB THAT FIVE MINUTES OF POKING AND PRODDING IS GOING TO GIVE US AWAY, BUT STILL...
?

WORRYING ABOUT IT ISN'T GOING TO GET US ANYWHERE AT THIS POINT.

WELL...
...I WAS THINKING WE COULD SEND HER TO MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WE'RE MAKING HARUKA A FAKE IDENTITY.
HUH?
...YOU WHAT !?
.....
WHAT IF SHE MISSES OUT ON THIS CRITICAL PIECE OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE AND LATER IN LIFE LOOKS BACK WITH REGRET?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER MIDDLE SCHOOL?
STUFF HAPPENS... LOTS OF MEMORIES, GOOD AND BAD...
FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE, IT'S A REAL IMPORTANT TIME IN THEIR LIVES, YOU KNOW?
.....
.....I SUPPORT THE IDEA...

AND THAT WOULD EXPLAIN ...
...WHY HE'S TEACHING HER ABOUT SELF-DEFENSE ...
SHE CAN'T SPEND HER ENTIRE LIFE LIKE A BIRD IN A CAGE.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF A CHILD.
AND I CAN'T ACCOMPANY HER AROUND THE CLOCK.
...YES...
IF EVERY-ONE ELSE THINKS IT'S A GOOD IDEA, I'M ALL FOR IT...
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, ARE YOU FINE WITH THIS?

AS FAR AS THE PUBLIC IS CONCERNED, YOU'RE NOW HARUNA HIJIKATA-CHAN.
!?
.....
WHAT !?

...SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT LITTLE DETAIL WASN'T REALLY PART OF HIS PLAN...
...
SISTER ...?
SHE'S NOW LEGALLY YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
LOOK AFTER HER, BIG BRUDDER.
DON'T MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT.
IGAWA HAD A SISTER OF HIS OWN, ONCE...
!?
SHE WAS MURDERED BEFORE SHE FINISHED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

...I SEE...
SIGN: KOBAYAKAWA CLINIC
KILL THE MAN WITH THE KATANA, ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.
AND FIVE HUNDRED MILLION FOR THE GIRL, ALIVE!
EVERYTHING I KNOW IS INSIDE THAT ENVELOPE.
THERE'S NO TIME LIMIT.
I DOUBT YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT THOSE NUMBERS.
.....

RRRGH!
NNNGH!
DAMMIT...
HA (GASP)
.....

Until
Death
do us
Part

AH-HA-HA!
アハハ
GAYA
ガヤ
GAYA (CHATTER)
ガヤ
SIGN: MIDORI MIDDLE SCHOOL
DAMN...
CHIRA (PEEK)
チラ
チラ
CHIRA
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA
ザワ
ザワ
...WOMEN ARE SHAPE-SHIFTERS, I TELL YA...
SAKON

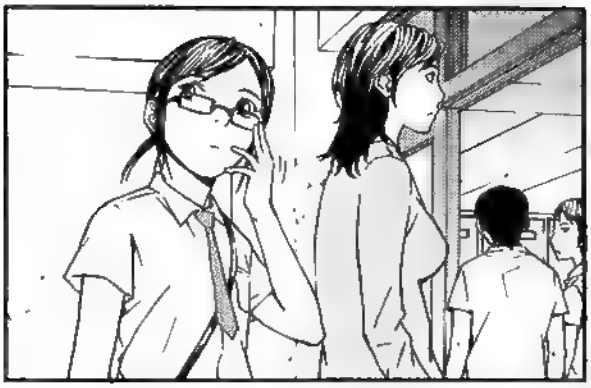
chapter 26

I'M FINE. I CAN HEAR YOU LOUD AND CLEAR.
SU (SWISH)
WELL, THE SIGNAL'S COMING IN NICE AND CLEAN.
HOW ABOUT YOU, HARUKA ?
Easy for you to say.
You're not the one who has to accompany her in for the interview!
YEAH, AND I'M SURE A GUY LIKE ME BRINGING HER IN WOULDN'T RAISE ANY EYEBROWS, OHHHH NO.
WELL, SIT TIGHT AND HAVE A NICE DAY AT SCHOOL, THEN.
SAKON

OF COURSE WE DID! I GET CAUGHT, AND THE FIRST THING THEY'D DO IS FIND HER BASED ON THAT STUPID ALIAS.
WE HAVE TO BE SMART ABOUT THIS.
AND REMEMBER, MAMORU WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TOO.
WE HAD TO SCRAP THE IDEA TO USE HIJIKATA AS HER LAST NAME, AFTER ALL.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE DRAWING PLENTY OF ATTENTION ON OUR OWN...
HISO (WHISPER)
ヒソ
ヒソ
HISO

AT LEAST YOU MANAGED TO GET A HOUSE IN SIGHT OF THE SCHOOL.

We were mostly looking for a convenient place to settle in, and a school happened to be down the street.
Other way around.

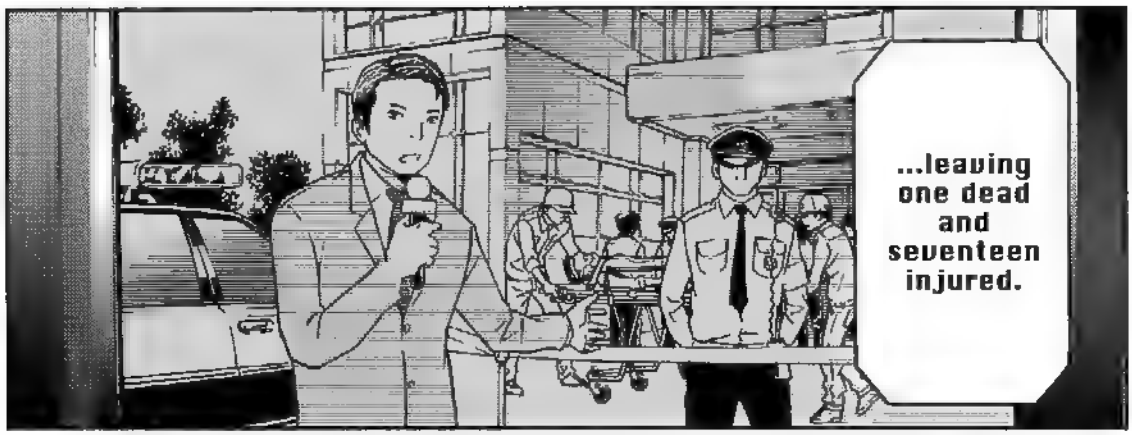


?

I see...

.....
LOOK AT THAT! SHE LOOKS HAPPY!
HA HA!

WELL, LA-DEE-FRICKIN'-DA.
PI (BEEP)
Late last night, a Juu-zankai office was raided by a group of unidentified men armed with hand-guns...


...leaving one dead and seventeen injured.

...YOU GOTTA BE KID-DING ME...
Police have begun investigating the incident as a possible territorial squabble between organized crime syndicates.
?

SAKON
SOMEONE'S GOT THE BALLS TO PICK A FIGHT WITH THE KINDAI-GUMI? THE BIGGEST OPERATION IN THE COUNTRY...?
THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET HAIRY OUT THERE.
OH, HEY!
WHAT?
MADE SOME MINOR CHANGES YOU MIGHT LIKE.
SAKON
PAKA (POP)

SAKON
THE NEW SPEAKER USES BONE CONDUCTION, SAME AS THE ONE I GAVE HARUKA.
BUT BY ALL APPEARANCES, IT'S JUST ANOTHER PAIR OF SUN-GLASSES.
.....
THE FUNCTIONAL-ITY'S THE SAME AS THE ONES YOU'VE GOT NOW, BUT I TOOK OUT THE EAR-PIECE.
THANKS.
BLOCKING UP ONE OF MY EARS THROWS OFF MY SENSES.
AND I WAS WRONG NOT TO LISTEN TO YOU.
...WHICH IS WHY I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE TESTED IT FROM THE START, ASS-HOLE!

ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)
SIGN: TOOYAMA FAMILY DISAPPEARANCE INVESTIGATION OFFICE
遠山一家失踪事件対策本部
WEST SETA-GAYA POLICE STATION

SO WHAT WE KNOW IS, ON THE DATE OF HARUKA TOOYAMA'S DISAPPEAR-ANCE...
...WERE SPOTTED AT SEVERAL POINTS ALONG HER RETURN ROUTE FROM SCHOOL TO HOME.
...MULTIPLE SUSPICIOUS PERSONS WHO APPEARED TO BE MOBSTERS ...
QUITE A SHOW OF FORCE FOR A SINGLE PRETEEN GIRL.
IT'S JUST SO HARD TO BELIEVE ...
ARE WE SURE THIS WASN'T A COINCI-DENCE?
THIS SPOT IS FAIRLY ISOLATED, AND THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ABDUCT HER WITH A MINIMUM OF MANPOWER.
ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, WE'RE TALKING AT LEAST TEN MEN TO SUBDUE ONE LITTLE GIRL...
?
IT'S ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS.

SO WHAT'S THE SCOOP?
YOU'RE LATE, HORIKAWA.
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW.
WHAT'D I MISS?
HMM ...
KOSO (WHISPER)
HUH?
WE'RE EXCHANGING INFORMATION WITH GENDA'S TEAM.
HE'LL GIVE ANYONE CREDIT FOR THE WORK, REGARDLESS OF AGENCY, DIVISION, OR RANK.
HE MAY LOOK LIKE A HARDASS, BUT GENDA-SAN'S ACTUALLY VERY THOUGHTFUL ABOUT THIS STUFF.

DON'T THE BOSSES CHEW YOU OUT FOR DOING THIS STUFF WITHOUT PERMISSION?
OH YEAH?
SO HE CALLS UP EVERYONE HE'S CLOSE WITH AND HOLDS THESE IMPROMPTU BRIEFINGS TO TRADE INTEL.
HE DOES IT NO MATTER WHERE HE'S ASSIGNED.
WHILE THE MOTIVE MAY BE UNCLEAR ...
DON'T PLAY THE AGENCY LINE BULLSHIT WITH US, KID!
WE'RE ALL HERE BECAUSE WE WANT TO CATCH THE FUCKERS.
...I DO SUSPECT THAT THE GOAL OF THIS ENTIRE OPERATION WAS SOLELY TO ABDUCT HARUKA TOOYAMA.
S-SORRY...

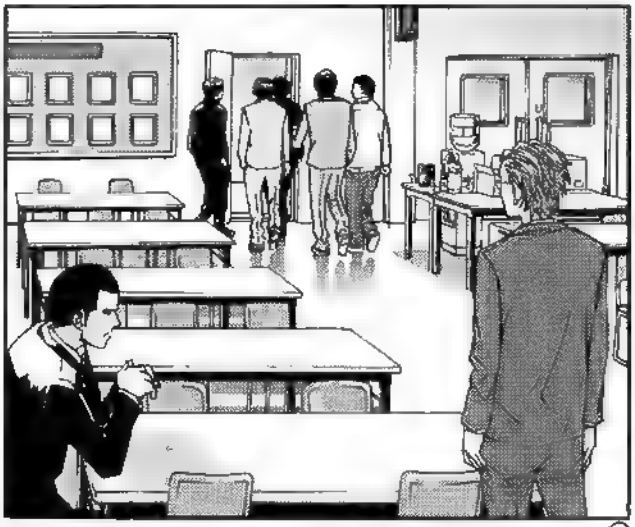
I SUSPECT THEY WERE "SILENCED" IN ORDER TO DELAY THE INVESTIGATION.
...WHAT'S THE REST OF HER FAMILY FOR, THEN...?
!!?
HOWEVER, IF THAT'S THE CASE, THE GIRL COULD STILL BE ALIVE.

GATA
(CLUMP)
YOU GOT IT.

CAN YOU PROCEED WITH THAT LIKELIHOOD IN MIND?

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THAT'S WHAT WE'LL GO WITH.

...MASUDA...?
YOU MAKE THE CONNEC-TION?



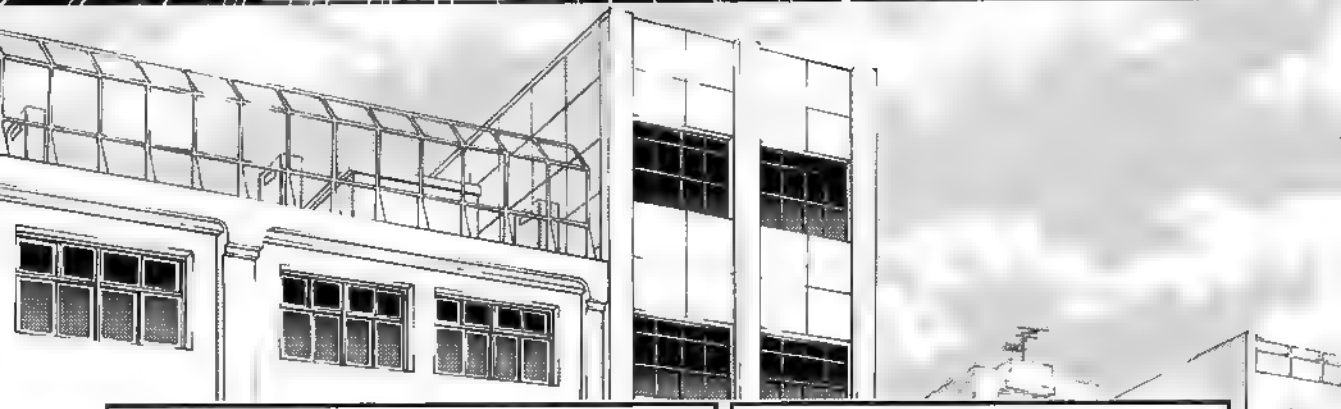
...
RRRR
RRRR

ELEMENT NETWORK ...?
HMM?
YEAH...
FOR NOW, THEY LET THE NAME SPEAK FOR ITSELF...
...AND WHAT THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO ARE A MYSTERY.
HOWEVER, I'VE DUG UP A FEW BITS AND PIECES OF RUMOR ON THE NET...
THAT'S RIGHT.
I HAVE A FRIEND FROM THE ACADEMY OVER IN THE HIGH-TECH CRIMES CENTER, AND HE TOLD ME ABOUT THEM.

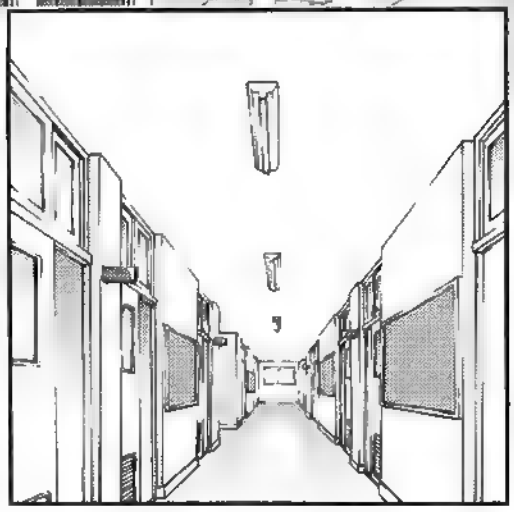
...AND THEY SUGGEST THAT IT'S A CRIME-FIGHTING VIGILANTE ORGANIZATION.
!?
.....
...THOSE THINGS ACTUALLY EXIST...?
.....
(BEEP)
HMM... I SEE.
LET ME KNOW IF YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING NEW.

...I GUESS THE POLICE JUST AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO HANDLE EVERYTHING ON THEIR OWN...
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
WE'RE GOING.
HUH ...?
KA (STOMP)
O... OKAY.
GATAN (CLATTER)

BUT IF THERE'S ONE THING I CAN DO...
...IT'S RESCUE THAT GIRL!



ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA



MY NAME IS HARUNA TACHIBANA.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

THE PREVI-OUS NIGHT
4F Italian Bar-Restaurant
6
CHIIN (DING)
ガチャ
GACHA (KCHAK)
!?
KO (CLICK)
コ
コッ
KO

.....
MMM!
MM-
MMFF!
BATA
(CHOKE)
BATA
BATA
(THUMP)

CHA
CLICK
BUUN
(VMMM)
!?
KICHI
KICHI
(KRRRK)
BUUN

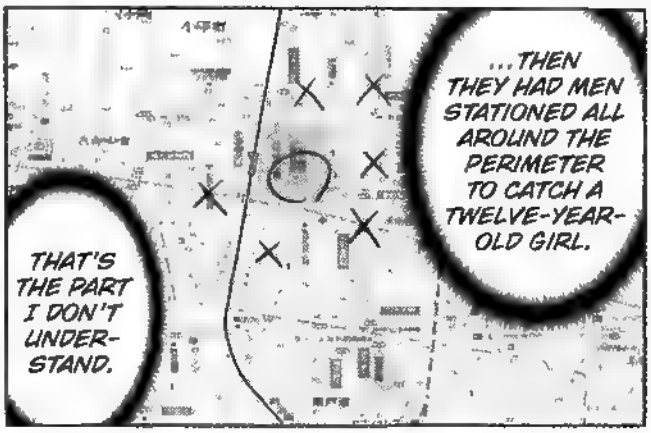
chapter 27

SIGN: MIDORI MIDDLE SCHOOL
UMM...
...YOKO-HAMA...
SO YOUR NAME'S HARUNA-CHAN?
GAYA-
GAYA (CHATTER)
WHERE'D YOU MOVE HERE FROM?
.....

PITA
(FREEZE)
ヒタ

SIGN: YAMAI PRIVATE MIDDLE SCHOOL

HARUKA TOOYAMA— AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, ASIDE FROM HER EXCELLENT GRADES, THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT HER.
IF THEY JUST WANTED HER FOR BUSINESS REASONS, IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY THEY'D RISK TAKING HER PARENTS TOO.



IT WOULD HAVE TO MEAN THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HARUKA TOOYAMA THAT WOULD MAKE IT WORTH ALL THE TROUBLE...BUT WHAT COULD THAT BE...?
RRR RRR
.....
...HOW LONG'S HE GONNA STAND AROUND ...?
A PARTY? GOT GIRLS THERE? HELL YEAH, I'M DOWN!
YO, WHAT'S UP...?

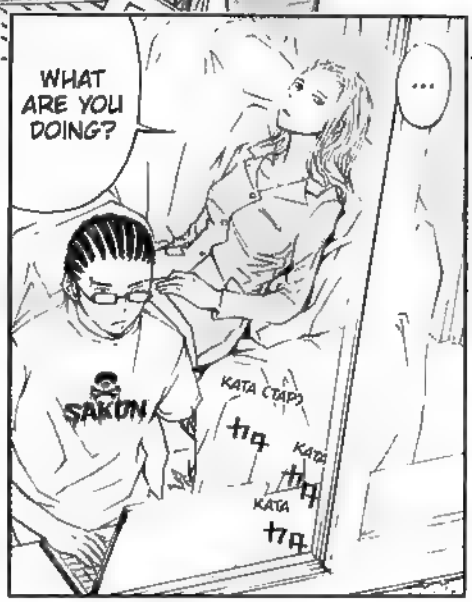
L-LOOK, DON'T CALL ME WHILE I'M ON THE JOB!
ピッ
PI (BEEP)
TON
TON (TAP)
YEAH, THIS CURRENT CASE IS A PAIN IN THE ASS.
WE'RE NOT GETTIN' ANY-WHERE, SO I CAN PROBABLY SWING BY ONCE WE GIVE UP.
UH-OH!
NO. I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE SCENE.
SO...WE ASKING QUESTIONS IN THE ASSIGNED AREAS, OR DO WE JUST CALL IT A DAY?
H... HUH?
WE'RE WALKING THERE.
STASH THE CAR IN ONE OF THOSE PAY GARAGES.

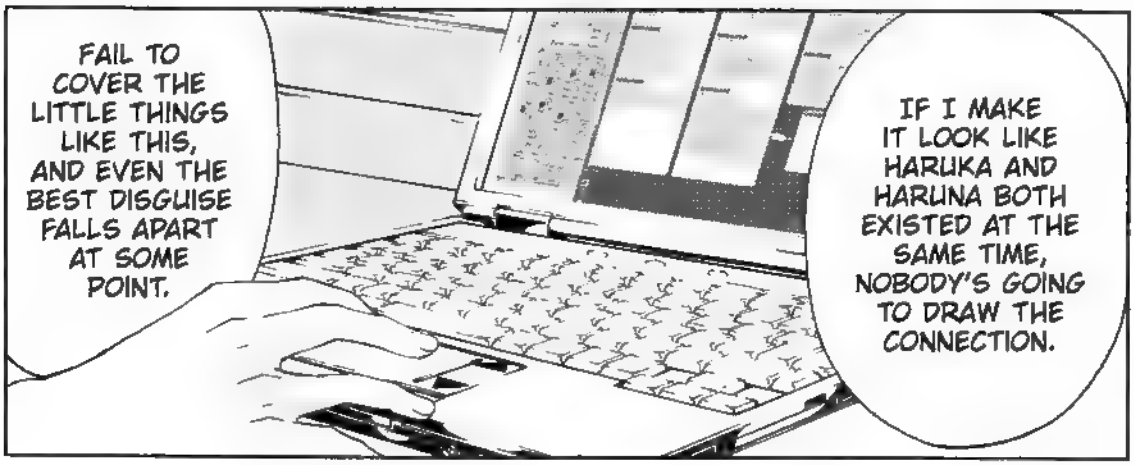
WHY WOULD WE GO TO THE HASSLE...?
I'M NOT GOING PAST THE HOUSE.
?
DON'T WANT TO BE SPOTTED.

A WIG, CONTACTS, AND A POUND OF FOUNDATION ...
...ALL SO I CAN GO IN AND GIVE THE TEACHER A GOOD IMPRESSION.
...UUUH, MY SHOULDERS ARE KILLING ME...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE CALLED UPON TO PLAY A MOTHER.
HAAH...
WELCOME BACK.
KATA (TAP)
カ
7
KATA
カ
7
KATA
カ
7
KATA
カ
7

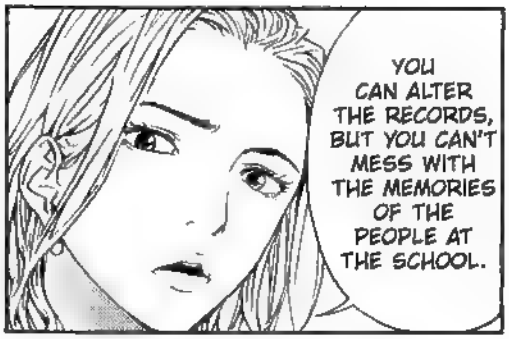
.....

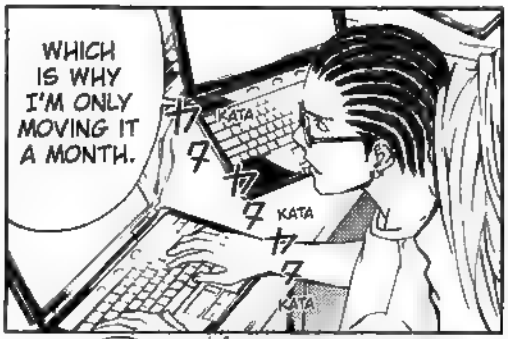
AHH...
KATA
KATA
KATA
TWEAKING THE RECORDS TO SHOW HER TRANSFER DATE AS A MONTH EARLIER.
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS AT THIS SCHOOL BEFORE EVERY-THING ELSE HAPPENED.


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
...
SAKUN
KATA (TAP?)
KATA
KATA


FAIL TO COVER THE LITTLE THINGS LIKE THIS, AND EVEN THE BEST DISGUISE FALLS APART AT SOME POINT.
IF I MAKE IT LOOK LIKE HARUKA AND HARUNA BOTH EXISTED AT THE SAME TIME, NOBODY'S GOING TO DRAW THE CONNECTION.

IF IT DOES HAPPEN TO BE SPOTTED, IT'LL JUST GET CHALKED UP TO A DATA ENTRY ERROR.
HUMAN MEMORY ISN'T A VERY RELIABLE THING. AFTER A MONTH OR TWO, MOST PEOPLE GROUP MEMORIES INTO VAGUE PERIODS RATHER THAN HARD NUMBERS.
...HOW VERY SLY OF YOU...


YOU CAN ALTER THE RECORDS, BUT YOU CAN'T MESS WITH THE MEMORIES OF THE PEOPLE AT THE SCHOOL.

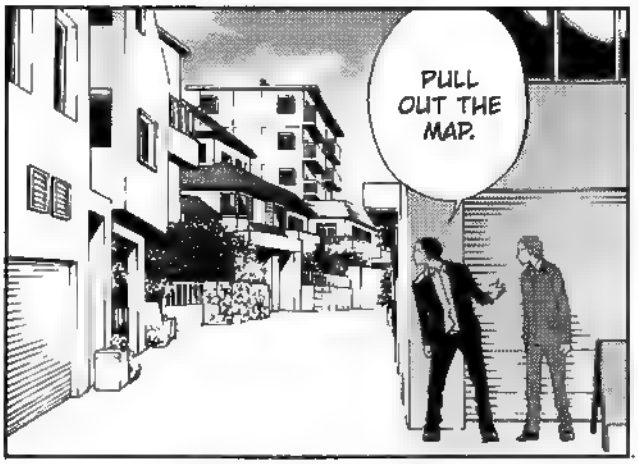

WHICH IS WHY I'M ONLY MOVING IT A MONTH.
KATA
KATA
KATA

...WHERE'S MAMORU...?
OUT BACK.

PLEASE.
I PREFER "INGENIOUS."

...OUT BACK?
HYUUUUU (WHOOSH)

BA
BA
BA (SWOOSH)
HE'S TESTING OUT THE SPECS ON HIS NEW SET OF EYES.


PULL OUT THE MAP.

HERE, HERE, AND HERE... THAT SHOULD DO IT...

UM, WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR...?
JUST AS I THOUGHT.

IF THEY'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON THE PLACE...
...IT MEANS THEY DON'T HAVE CUSTODY OF THE GIRL.

THEY'RE STAKING OUT THE TOOYAMA HOUSE?
THAT'S RIGHT.

THEY'RE PATIENTLY LYING IN WAIT FOR HER TO COME BACK HOME.

SHIT!
HUH?
DADA (DASH)

!?

BA (SPIN)

NO POINT WITH JUST THE TWO OF US HERE!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE IS THE GRANDMOTHER STAYING NOW?
H-HEY ...!?
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THOSE GUYS!?
DADADA (DASH)
UM, I THINK SHE'S AT THE... UH...
HUH?
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO CARELESS!?
SHIT!!

HOTEL LITE
HOTEL LITE
WHOA!
BAN (SLAM)
DA
DA
DA
SIR, CAN I HELP YOU!?
UM...

602
DADADADA (DASH)
GACHA (CLACK)
GACHA
!!
DOGA (WHAM)

!?
WAH!!
GENDA-SAN?
NFF!
NFF?
?

HERE, TAKE HER OUTSIDE!!
O-OKAY!
TOOYAMA-SAN'S ALIVE!
HUH?
EXPLOSIVE IMPLANT IN HIS TEETH...
...A FOR-EIGNER ...?
GALBOA AGAIN!?

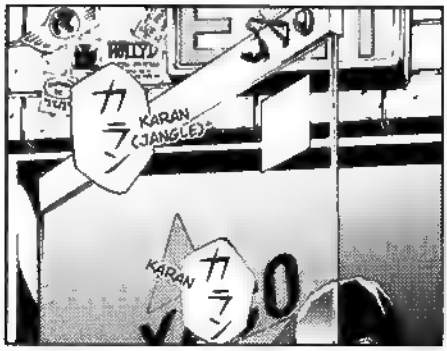
BASED ON THE STATE OF THE ROOM, IT WOULD SEEM THAT WHOEVER DID THIS WAS PROTECTING HER...

.....

BUT WHO COULD PULL OFF SUCH A THING?

AND SO IS HIJIKATA...!
THIS SETTLES IT.
HARUKA TOOYAMA'S ABDUCTION IS TIED TO WHAT HAPPENED WITH EX SOLID AND GALBOA.
BUUN (VHM)
OLYMPUS
AF ZOOM
IF WE SCRUB ALL THE TIES TO THIS CASE, SOMETHING'S BOUND TO TURN UP!!

Until
Death
do us
Part


カラン
KARAN (JANGLE)
KARAN
カラン

LIGHT
KYU CHIPS
KYU

WHAT'S UP?
WE AIN'T OPEN YET.

BOOZE & WORK
DON'T MIX
TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS
DUTY WORK!

!?
BASA (FWAP)
I WANT INFO ON CRIMES PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK, STARTING TODAY.
...REAL ODD ORDER YOU'VE GOT...
IF YOU CAN'T HELP ME, I'LL TAKE THIS MONEY ELSEWHERE.
SU (SWISH)
THE NASTIER AND THE MORE WIDELY TALKED ABOUT, THE BETTER.

.....
BE CAREFUL, KID.
HEY, DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF!
I JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE YOU WANTED SOMETHING SO SIMPLE, THAT'S ALL.
THINK HARD ABOUT THIS. IF YOU GIVE ME BAD INFO OR, EVEN WORSE, MAKE IT UP YOURSELF...
...IT COULD COST YOU YOUR LIFE.
WHOA, EASY!
LET'S NOT GET VIOLENT, YEAH...?

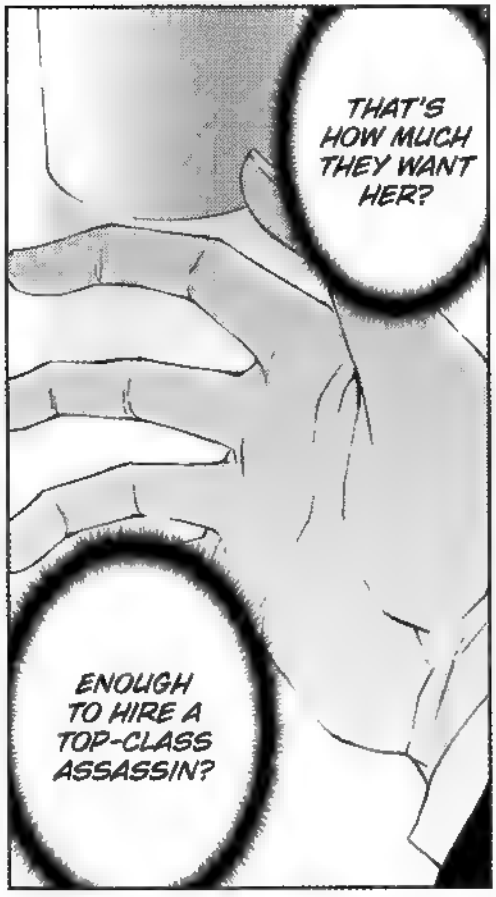
THAT SHOULD GET PLENTY OF THE KIND OF ATTENTION YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
I GOT A FEELING ABOUT TONIGHT AND FOUR DAYS FROM NOW.
LIGHT
.....
BOTH BY REAL ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE GUYS WITHOUT MUCH SMARTS, TALKING A BIG GAME.
EXCELLENT.
カラン
KARAN (CLINK)

chapter 28

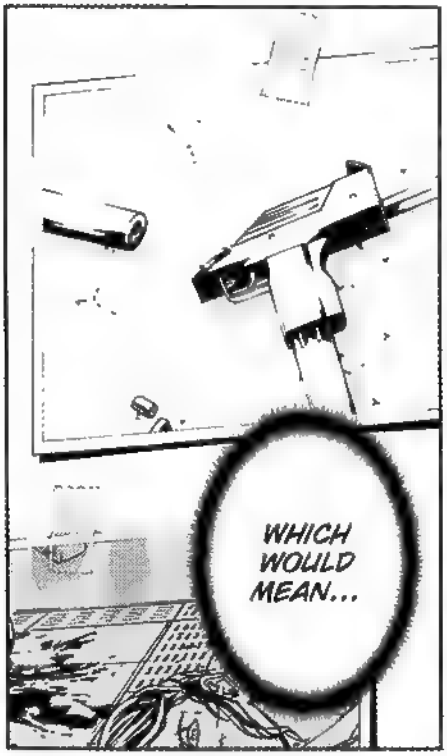
SIGN: TOOYAMA FAMILY DISAPPEARANCE INVESTIGATION OFFICE

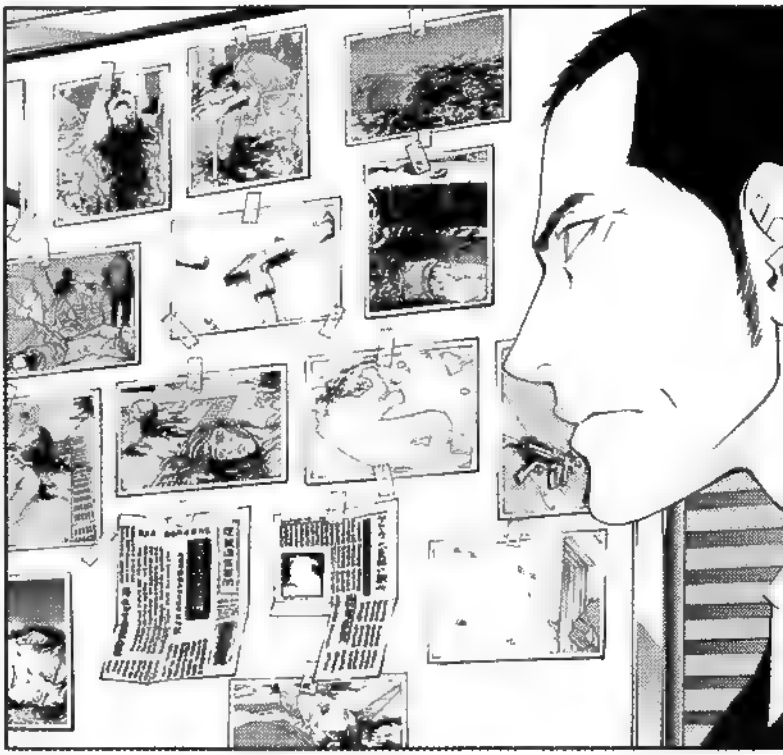
HE'S HAD THIRTY-NINE VICTIMS, JUST GOING BY CONFIRMED CASES.
KO CHUNK
AND THESE GUYS WOULD MAKE FORTY-ONE.
BUT WHY WOULD HE DO THIS, JUST FOR ONE OLD LADY?
HENCE THE NICKNAME, "FANG."
SO HE SAVED HARUKA TOOYAMA'S GRANDMOTHER OUT OF CIRCUMSTANCE ...
UM...
GRD (GUARD)
S-SORRY...

IT HAS TO BE GALBOA. THEY STILL WANT THE GIRL.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT SHE'S ON THE RUN, HIDING OUT ALL ON HER OWN.


THAT'S HOW MUCH THEY WANT HER?
ENOUGH TO HIRE A TOP-CLASS ASSASSIN?

THE ONLY PUZZLE PIECE I HAVE YET TO FIT IN IS THIS "ELEMENT NETWORK" ...


WHICH WOULD MEAN...



HARUKA TOOYAMA IS WORKING WITH MAMORU HIJIKATA?
AND THEY HIRED THIS ASSASSIN IN ORDER TO GET HER AWAY FROM HIM?
IT WOULD SEEM TO CONNECT THE DOTS.
DOESN'T IT SEEM A BIT OVER-BOARD...
...JUST TO GET THE OLD LADY AWAY FROM TWO MEASLY KID-NAPPERS?
MAYBE GOING OVER-BOARD WAS THE POINT.
HUH?

...
HUH ...?
...AND WHO WOULD THAT BE...?
THE UGLIER THE SCENE, THE MORE ATTENTION IT DRAWS.
IT INDIRECTLY GETS BACK TO THE PEOPLE CALLING THE SHOTS.
GENDA-SAN!
DA (DASH)
WHAT ABOUT THEM !?
GATA (THUNK)
REMEMBER ALL THOSE MEN STAKING OUT HARUKA TOOYAMA'S HOUSE?

WE TOOK AN ASSAULT TEAM DOWN FOR A LOOK...
...AND IT WAS A SERIES OF MANGLED BODIES, JUST LIKE THAT HOTEL ROOM.
...EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM TORN TO PIECES...

I GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS ONE.
ゴクリ
GOKU (GULP)
AM I STILL GONNA BE ALIVE BY THE TIME WE CLOSE THIS CASE?
ダン
DAN (SLAM)
...FUCKING HELL...
SAME THING HERE.
NO ONE IN THE SURROUNDING HOMES HAD ANY IDEA WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
I-ISN'T IT WEIRD THAT, GIVEN THE EXTENT OF THE SLAUGHTER ...
...THE GUESTS IN THE ADJACENT ROOMS REPORTED THEY DIDN'T HEAR A SOUND ALL NIGHT?

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF WEAPON YOU'D USE...
...TO LEAVE A MESS LIKE THAT WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND.
.....
INTE

SIGN: MIDORI MIDDLE SCHOOL
GAYA
GAYA (CHATTER)
DAY ONE'S IN THE BOOKS ...
SAFE AND SOUND...

THE REAL DANGER IS AFTER WE GET USED TO THIS LIFE AND OUR GUARD BEGINS TO DROP.
OF COURSE IT IS.
NO INTELLIGENCE UNIT IS GOING TO FIND HER IN THIS SHORT A TIME SPAN.
HUH !?

WELCOME HOME.
HAAH!
DOTATA (THUMP)
HAAH!
TA (HOP)
HUH!?
WHOA, WHAT'S UP?
TO-NIGHT'S DANGER-OUS!
.....

WE'RE GOING TO BE ATTACKED BY AN INVISIBLE ENEMY TONIGHT.
WE'RE IN TERRIBLE DANGER...
SOUNDS FUN...
EVEN... EVEN MAMORU-SAN IS IN TROUBLE.
AND... UM...

THIS IS HARUKA THE WARNING'S COMING FROM.
WE HAVE TO PLAY IT SAFE.
MAMORU!
KI (GLARE)
SAKON
PLUS...
I'M ALWAYS PREPARED FOR DANGER!
SU (CHOP)
IF I HOLED UP INSIDE EVERY TIME THERE WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL HARM, I'D NEVER GET ANYTHING DONE.

...DON'T STEAL MY REASON FOR LIVING.

?
...YOUR REASON FOR...?

YES?

HARUKA.

THE WAY YOU TELL US THINGS ISN'T GOING TO SPELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH UNTIL NOW ...
...BUT DON'T PLAY COY WITH YOUR STATEMENTS.
I SUPPOSE SHE WAS RAISED IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE SHE COULDN'T SAY WHAT SHE WANTED TO...
I...
I SEE...
NO DOUBT THAT'S PUT HER IN DANGER AND TURNED PEOPLE AGAINST HER AT TIMES.

I'M GOING TO PROVE THAT TO YOU TONIGHT.
...WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

PACHINK
FUCK!
HEY, YOU DONE YET?
WHOA!
KI-I (CREAK)
HEH HEH!
BAKI! (CRUNCH)

LET'S DO THIS.
ガラン
GARAN (CLANG)
OLYMPUS
BLULUN (VWM)

SOME STREET PUNKS ARE GONNA HIT A PACHINKO PARLOR TONIGHT.
THEY'LL DO IT AFTER MIDNIGHT, ONCE THE STORE'S TOTALED TODAY'S TAKE.
.....
スタッ
SUTA (THUMP)
プロース
パチンコ
KII (SCREECH)
キィ

バタン

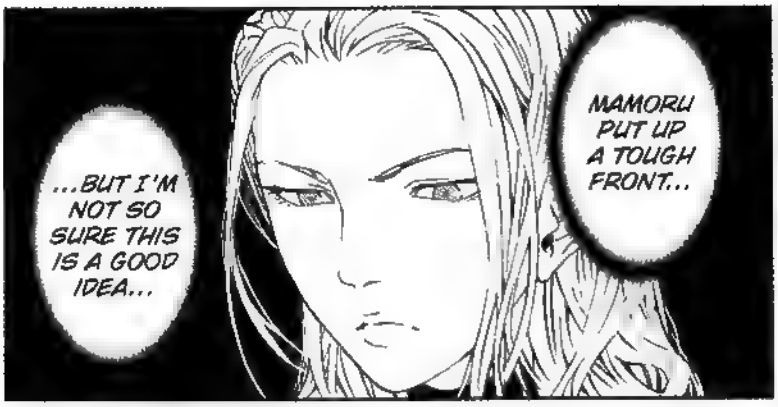
HMPH.
キュッ
CLICK
WE'RE GOING TO BE ATTACKED BY AN INVISIBLE ENEMY TONIGHT.
ドドドド
DADA (DASH)

DE
Da
Pl
He
W
Bu
La
So
Re

.....
KILL (CREAK)
...HE'S HERE...
I JUST KNOW HE'S HERE...

chapter 29

.....

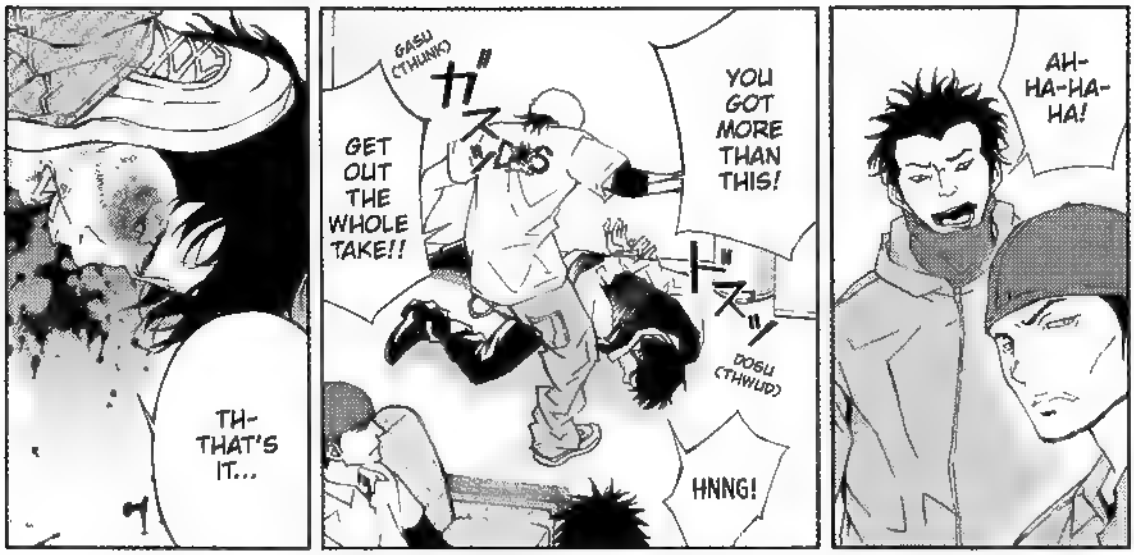

MAMORU PUT UP A TOUGH FRONT...
...BUT I'M NOT SO SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA...

...UMM...

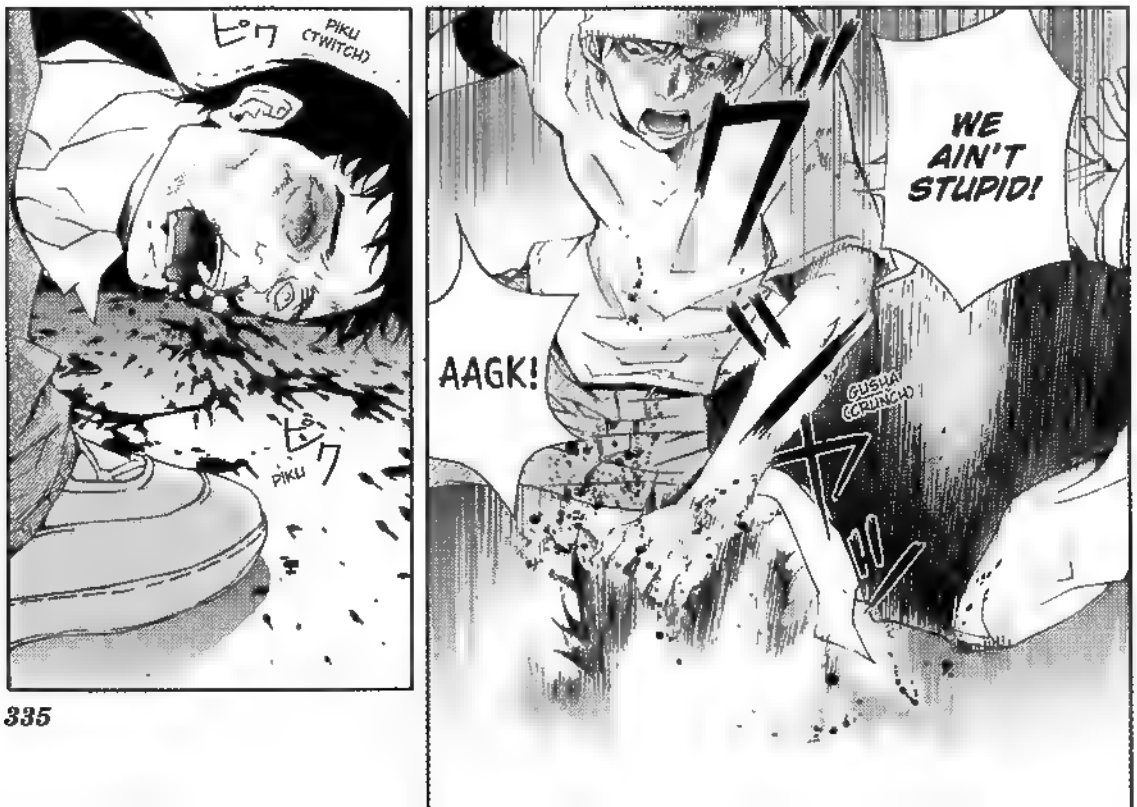
I SUPPOSE THIS KIND OF UNEASE IS WHAT SHE'S HAD TO LIVE WITH FOR YEARS... POOR GIRL.

...I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME-THING...
?
URRGH...
DAMN, I WAS EXPECTING MORE...
IS THIS SERIOUSLY IT?

THIS PITIFUL AMOUNT?
GOSO (RUSTLE)
ガサ
IT'S CHUMP CHANGE...
GOSO
ゴソ
WHAT THE FUCK!?
DOKA (WHAM)


TH-THAT'S IT...
GASU (THUNK)
GET OUT THE WHOLE TAKE!!
YOU GOT MORE THAN THIS!
DOSU (THWUD)
HNNG!
AH-HA-HA-HA!

WE KNOW YOU PULL IN MORE IN A DAY THAN THIS!
WE DID OUR RESEARCH, BITCH.


PIKU (TWITCH)
PIKU
AAGK!
GUSHA! (CRUNCH)
WE AIN'T STUPID!

MAYBE A WEEK, IF YOU LIVE LIKE A SQUARE!
HEH HEH!
I BROUGHT ALL THESE GUYS ALONG FOR THE RIDE, MAN. I CAN'T LET THEM DOWN WITH THIS SHITTY PAYDAY!
BRING OUT THE REST!
WE'LL BURN THROUGH THIS PILE IN THREE DAYS.
TH... THERE ISN'T ANY MORE! THAT'S... ALL WE HAVE!
OKAY, ENOUGH OF THIS SHIT.
GA (GRAB)
I DON'T LIKE THIS GUY'S ATTITUDE. I THINK WE SHOULD FINISH HIM.

AAH... AAAH!
BARA (FLAIL)
BARA
N-NO... HELP!
ZUI (LOOM)
BACHIN (FLIP)
THE HELL HAP-PENED !?
WHOA!
!?

GYAAA!
AAH!
GA THWAK
GAAAH !!
UWAAAH !!
H-HEY, WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING!?

!?
カチ!
KACHI (CLICK)
H-HEY, DUDE!
...WHAT HAPPENED ...!?
BE QUIET.

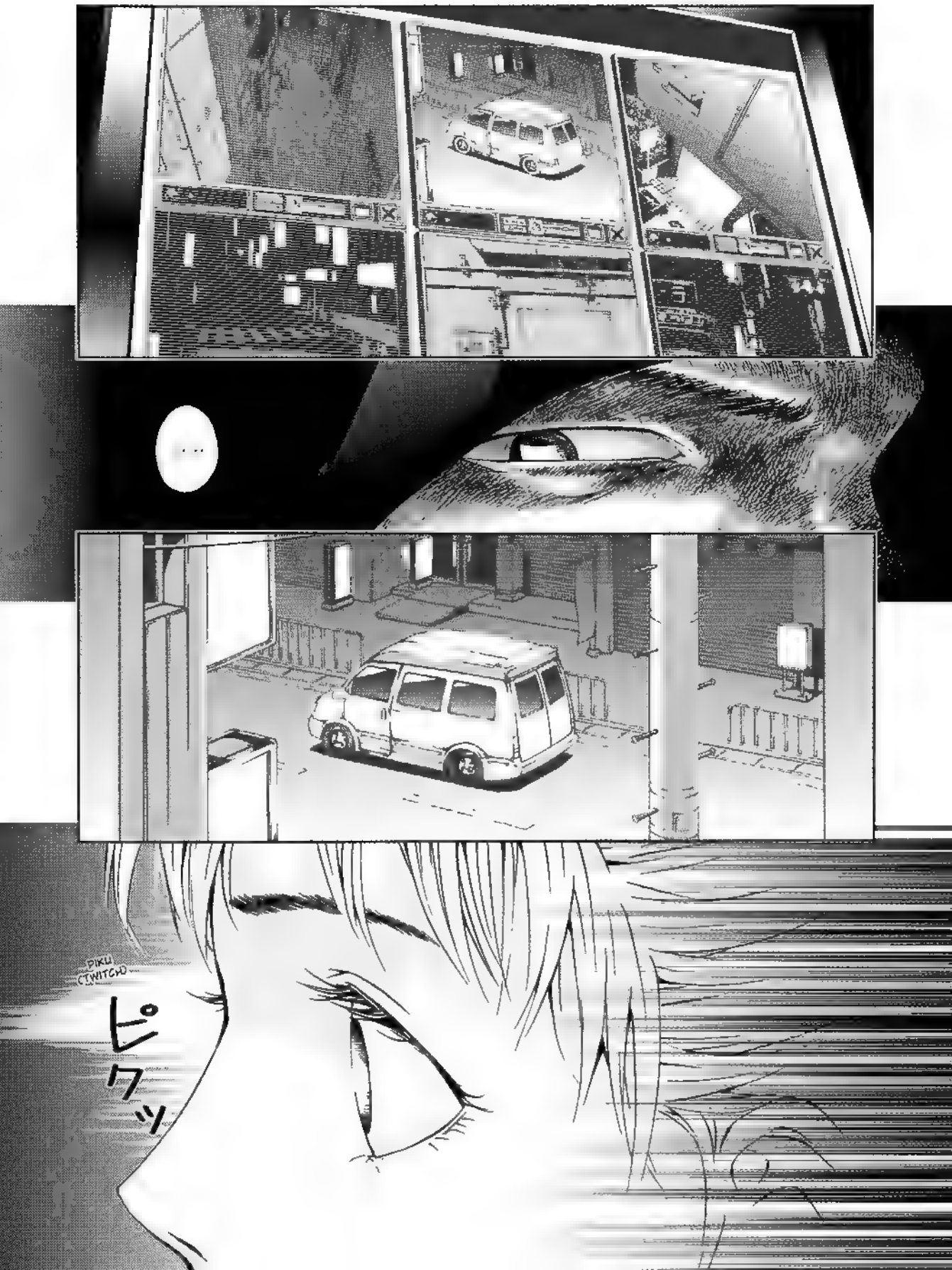
ガチャ
(GACHA (CLACK))
GAH!
グ
(GU (KRAK))
ゴロ
(GORO (RG-L))
AND WHO ARE YOU!? SPOILED BUNCH OF DAMN BRATS.
.....
YOU FUCK...
...WHO... ARE YOU!?

I CAN'T STAND SPINELESS LITTLE TWERPS LIKE YOU.
.....
PULLING THIS BULL-SHIT FOR A BIT OF SPENDING MONEY.
ガチャン
I OUGHTA KILL YOU RIGHT HERE AND NOW.

OH SHIT...
...WE'RE FUCKED... HE'S CRAZY, DUDE...
WHOA...
ドサッ
DOSA (THUMP)

TOSU (SHUNK)
IT'S... IT'S JUST A JOKE, MAN.
HEH HEH.
WE LIKED SEEING THE GUY FREAK OUT. WE WEREN'T ACTUALLY GONNA—
!!
AAAAAGHH!!
...

...WHAT? IT WAS JUST A JOKE...
NNNGH! M-MY HAND!
AAAH!
AAGH!!
...COME ON OUT!
I KNOW THESE SMALL-TIME THUGS AREN'T THE MAIN EVENT...

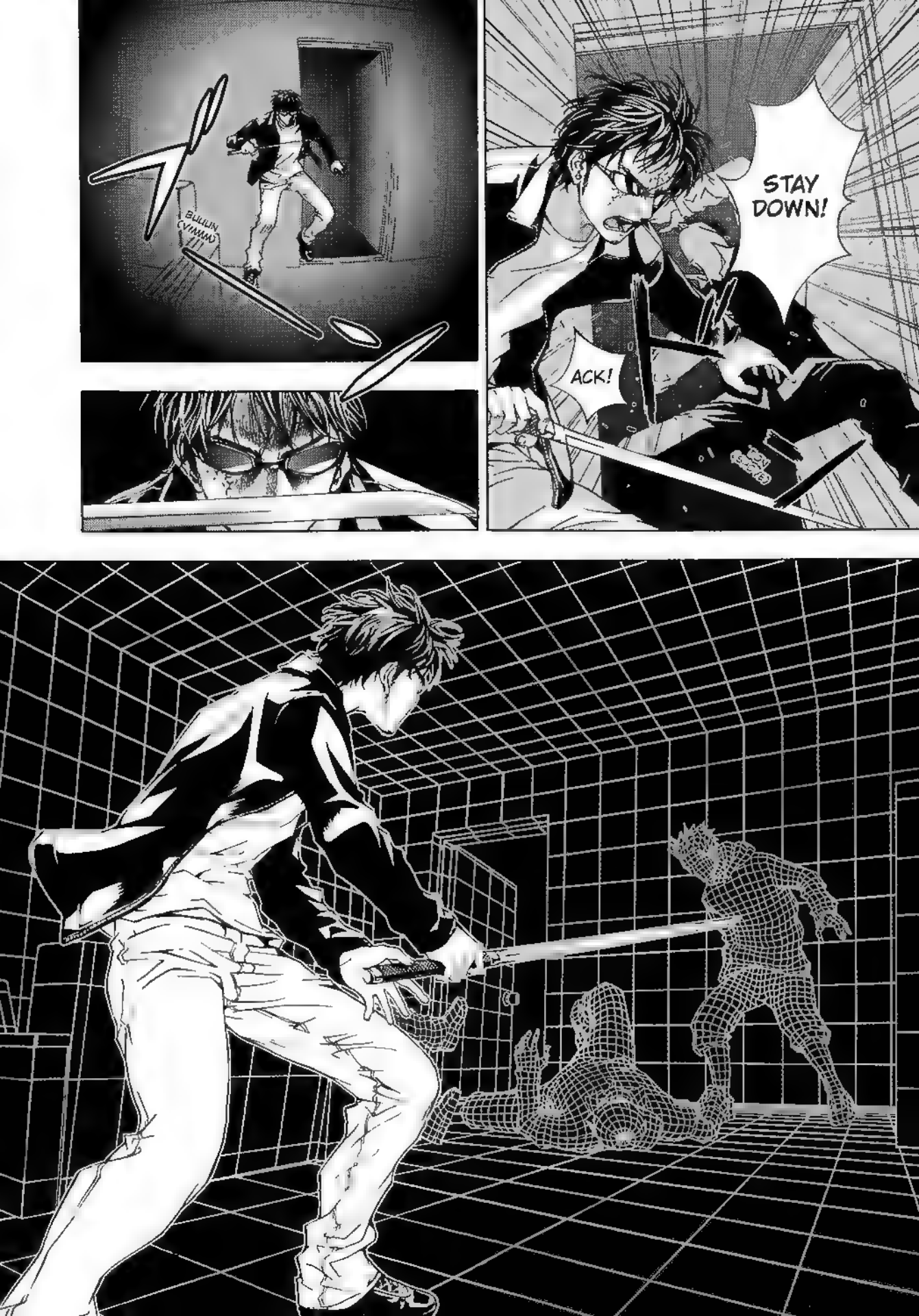

...
PIKU
TWITCH
ピクッ

HE'S COMING!
BUON (VVVLIMM)
KYURURU (RVVV)
ガチャッ
GACHA (CLICK)

He's coming!
I...I THINK SO...
?
...CAN YOU STAY ON YOUR FEET?
SA (SWISH)
UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE A CASUALTY.
STAY LOW UNTIL IT ALL BLOWS OVER.
HUH?
HEY...!

ВЫШЛИ
ВЫШЛИ
ННН?

HOLY SHIT!


BUUUN
CVMMM
STAY DOWN!
ACK!

AHH... I CAN'T SEE HIM...
...BUT I KNOW HE MUST BE OUT THERE, RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE...

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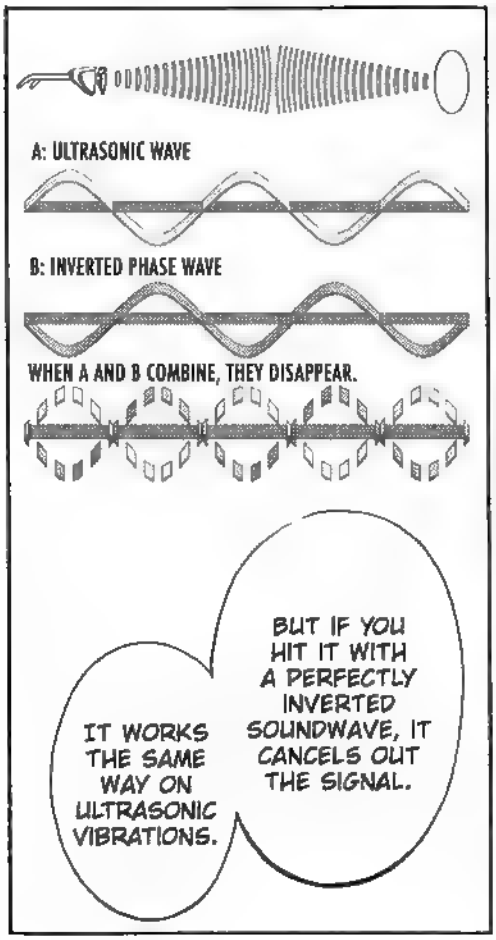
chapter 30

Until
Death
do us
Part

IT COULD BE...
...SOME VERY HIGH-FUNCTIONING SILENCING EQUIPMENT.

.....

Igawa.
Can you think of any reason I wouldn't be able to see my target?


A: ULTRASONIC WAVE
B: INVERTED PHASE WAVE
WHEN A AND B COMBINE, THEY DISAPPEAR.
IT WORKS THE SAME WAY ON ULTRASONIC VIBRATIONS.
BUT IF YOU HIT IT WITH A PERFECTLY INVERTED SOUNDWAVE, IT CANCELS OUT THE SIGNAL.

Think of it like noise-canceling head-phones.
SILENCING ?

ULTRASONIC
ECHO
REMEMBER, YOUR VISUAL FEED IS BASED ON AN ULTRASONIC SEARCHING FUNCTION.

...I GOTCHA ...
SO IT ERASES THE ECHOES, HUH...?
...I WAS RIGHT.
COULDN'T CATCH HIM OFF GUARD... PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THAT FORE-SIGHT...

WHAT'S HE LOOKING AT!?
!?
...THOSE UNNATURAL ACTIONS... I GUESS HE REALLY CAN'T SEE.

H-HEY! HELP ME, YOU GUYS...
NNNGH!
OW... AHHH ...
WHAT, YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ATTACKED YOURSELVES?
LISTEN UP.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, DON'T MOVE UNTIL I GIVE THE SIGNAL.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIME!?
... ...

I'm here to back you up!
B-BUT...
HOW WILL YOU DO IT WITHOUT SEEING!?
(DA CLEAR)
.....
I WON'T HAVE THE TIME TO REACT AFTER YOUR INSTRUC-TIONS.
IT'S NOT LIKE BEFORE.

GA
(CRAKK)

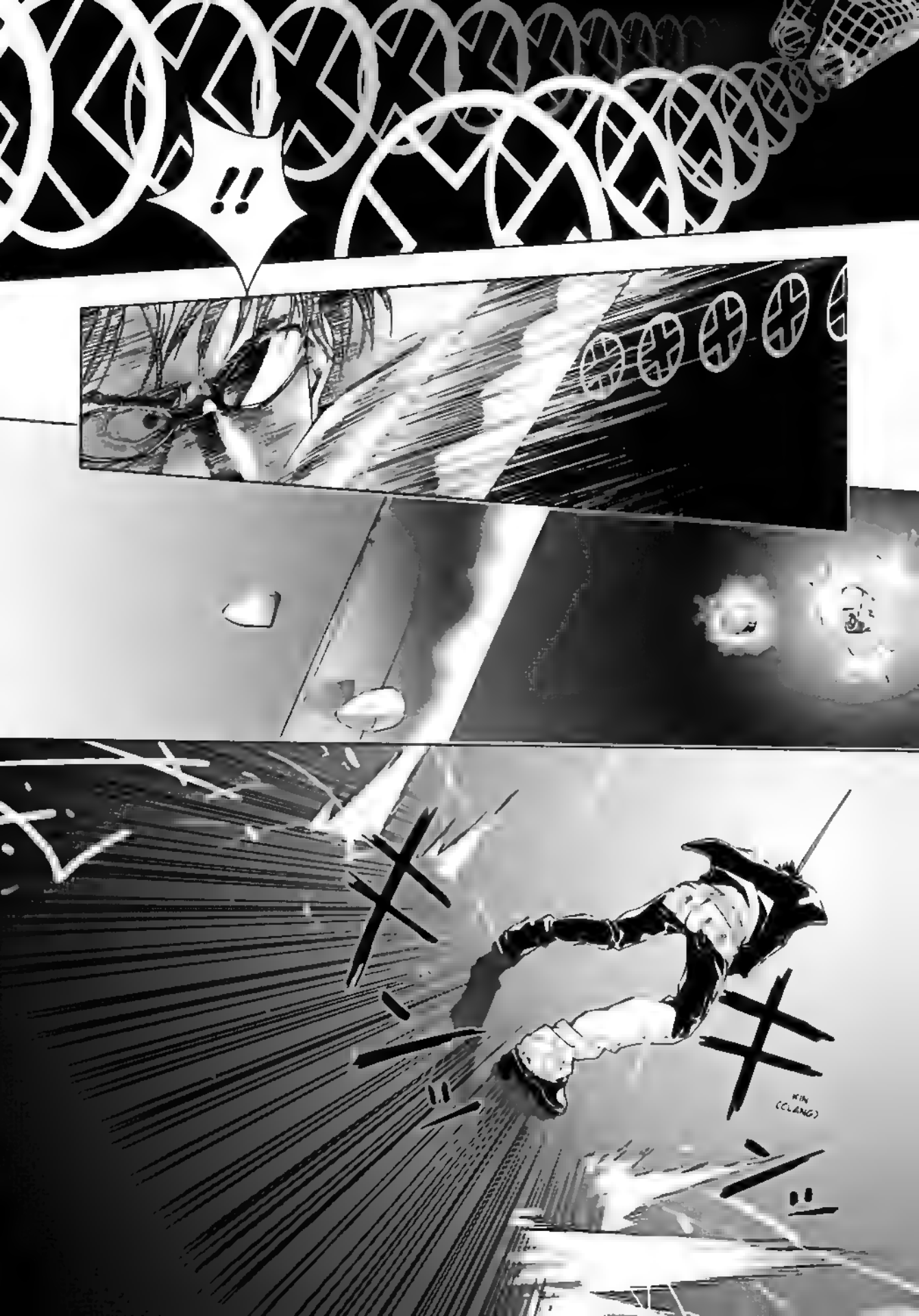
HMM !?
Ma-moru-san!
...PIPE DOWN...
AAAH!
WHOA!

THE SOUND... DISAP- PEARED...?
FUO (SWISH)
BUNN

HYUOO (WHOOSH)
CHA (CHIKK)
GA
...I KNEW IT...
WITHOUT A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE TARGET, I CAN'T CUT THROUGH HARD METAL...
URGH!

...
SU (SWISH)
...THOSE ARE NOT THE MOVEMENTS OF A BLIND MAN...
HOW ABOUT THIS, THEN?
キュイ
KYUI (CHICK)
キュイ
KYUI
CHA (SNAP)
チャッ

ウイイイ
!?
ガシャッ
GASHA (CLICK)
キュー
KYUN (TWITCH)
THE END.
DON (BLAM)


!!
WIN
(CLANG)
!!

!?
AAAH!!
DAMMIT!!
SA
ITS RATE OF FIRE IS SLOW!
NOW I KNOW I CAN CUT IT DOWN !!
KYUU (FLICK)

THERE! I SEE THE BARREL OF THE GUN!
ダダッ
DADA (DASH)
キュイ
KYUI (FLICK)
キュン
KYUN (PWIP)
ジャキ
JAKI (CHAK)

DON
DON
DON
BLAM
SHJRJRw
(SLIP)

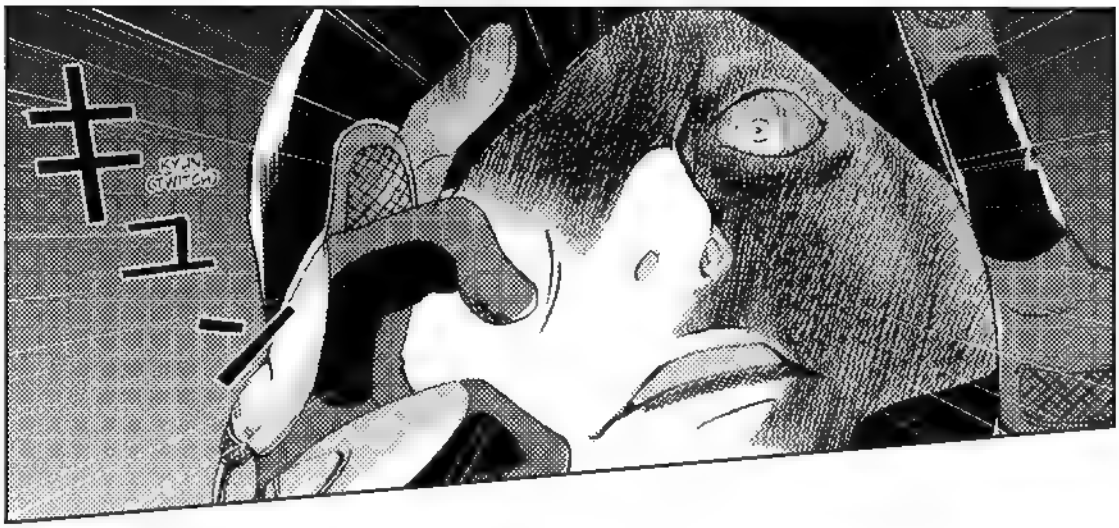
GYA
GYA

カン
カカン
B-N
B-N-G
KIN
(CLINK)
カカカーン
SHIT!
!?
AAAAH!
RUN!
NOW!

AAAAH!
W-WAIT UP, GUYS!
HUH ...?
DADADADA (DASH)
DAMN... MY GRIP STRENGTH IS GONE...
.....
H-HELP...
ZU (THUKK)
NICE FRIENDS YOU GOT.
.....

ギュウウ
GYUUUU (TUUUG)
スッ
SU (SLIP)
BA (WRAP)
BA
...CAN'T SEE THE OTHER GUY...
...AND I GOT A THIRD WHEEL ON THE GROUND THERE ...
SA (SWISH)
NO WONDER HARUKA SAID IT WOULD BE DANGER-OUS...

...NOT THAT IT'LL STOP ME...
BRING IT.


キュー
KYUN (TWITCH)

Until
Death
do us
Part

BUOOOO (VRRRR)
YES.
...SO YOU'RE SURE WE'RE OKAY TO LEAVE?
MAMORU-SAN...CAN'T DEFEAT THIS ENEMY.

WE HAVE TO HANDLE THIS ON OUR OWN.
...HE CAN'T!?
AND YOU'RE THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS, IGAWA-SAN.
!?
ME...?
HUH?
BLUUUU (VROOM)
BLUUU (VROOM)

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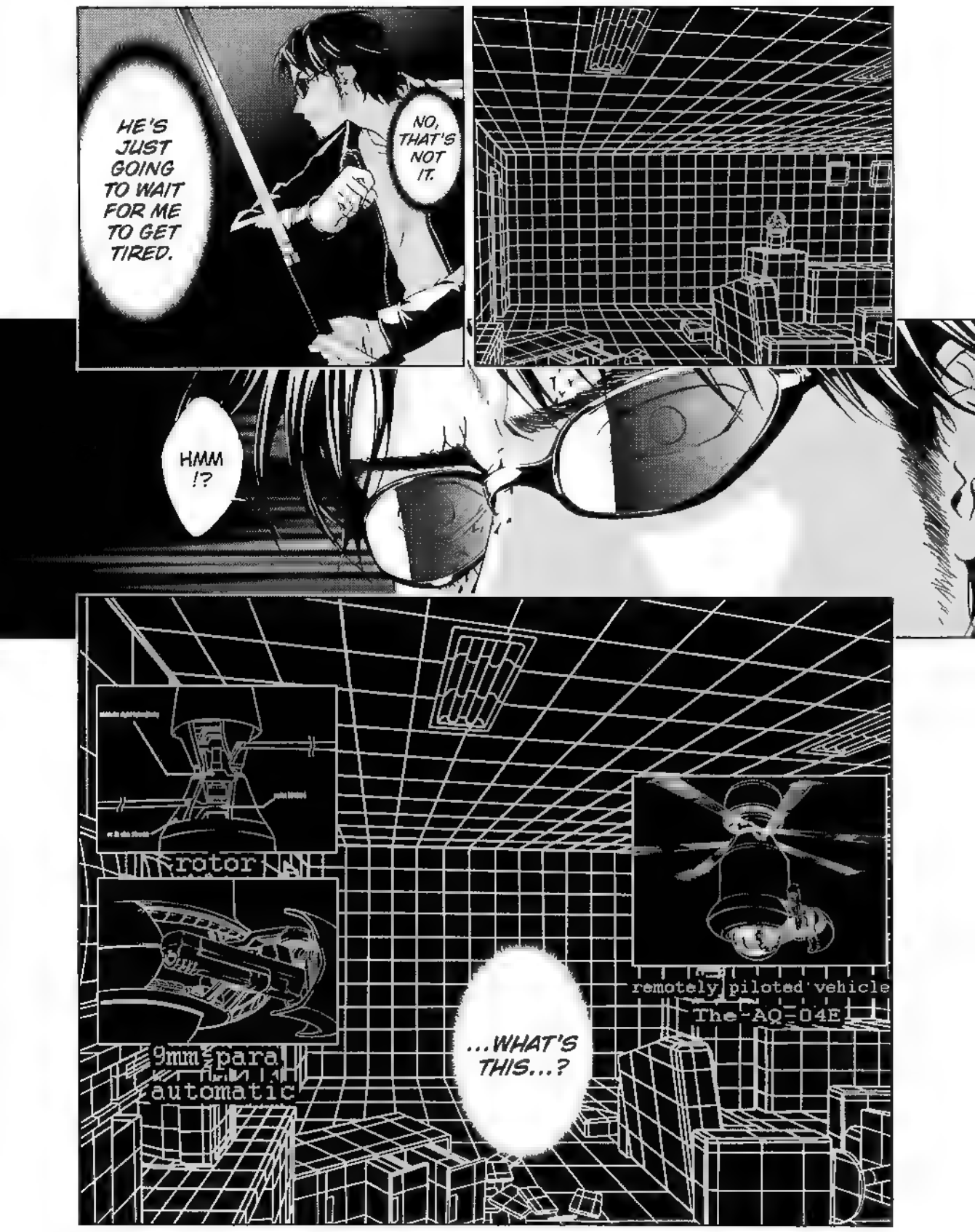
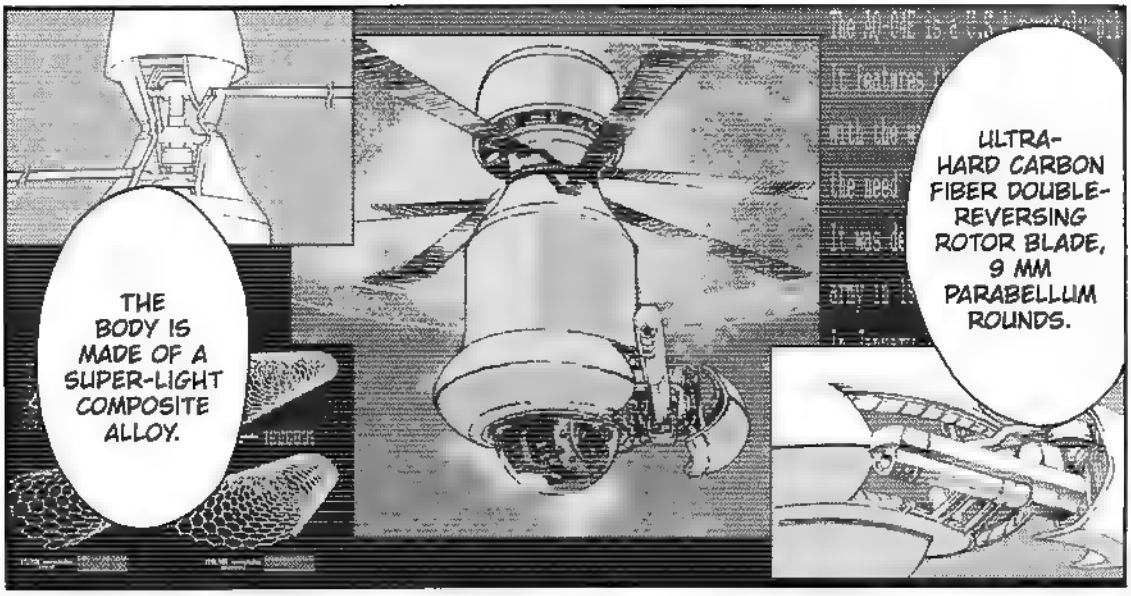
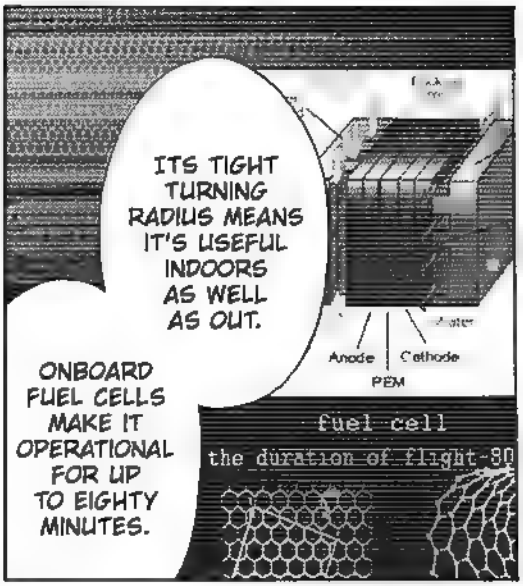
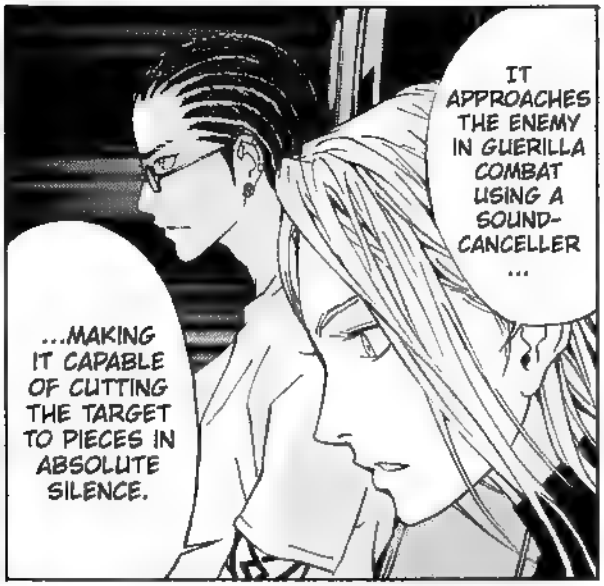
ドキ
スシャッ
DAMN...
IS HE JUST GONNA SIT BACK AND TOY WITH ME, KNOWING THAT I CAN'T FINISH HIM ALL AT ONCE...?


HE'S JUST GOING TO WAIT FOR ME TO GET TIRED.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
HMM !?
rotor
9mm-para automatic
remotely piloted vehicle
The-AQ-04E
...WHAT'S THIS...?

A DRONE ...?
PROBABLY SOMEONE CONNECTED TO THE AMERICAN MILITARY. READ IT OFF FOR ME.
MUST BE FROM ONE OF THE NETWORK'S OBSERVERS.
...WHERE IS THIS INFOR-MATION COMING FROM...!?
IT'S AN EXPERI-MENTAL AMERICAN ANTI-PERSONNEL DRONE.
AQ-04E, A.K.A. "THE BEAST."


THE BODY IS MADE OF A SUPER-LIGHT COMPOSITE ALLOY.
ULTRA-HARD CARBON FIBER DOUBLE-REVERSING ROTOR BLADE, 9 MM PARABELLUM ROUNDS.

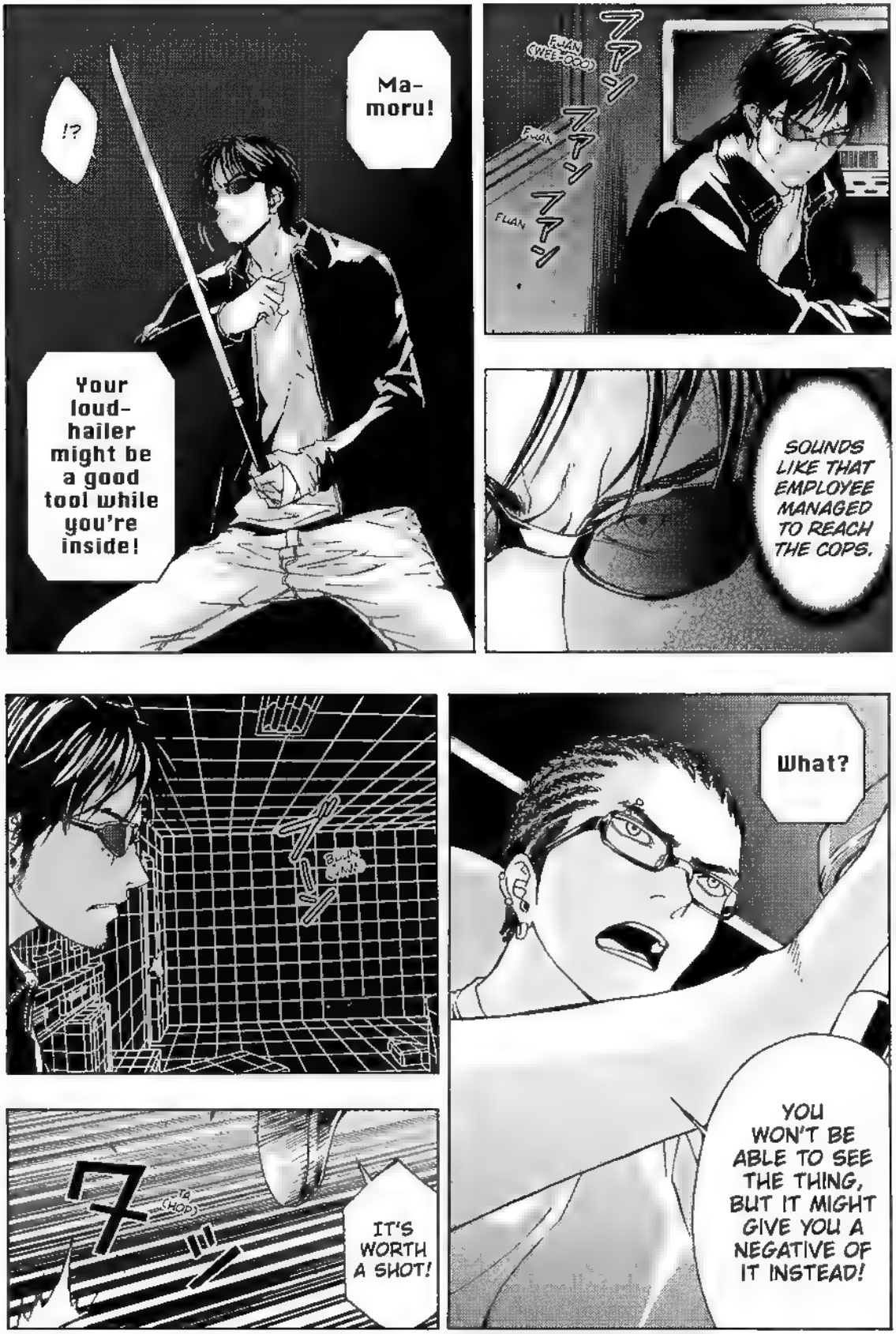

ITS TIGHT TURNING RADIUS MEANS IT'S USEFUL INDOORS AS WELL AS OUT.
ONBOARD FUEL CELLS MAKE IT OPERATIONAL FOR UP TO EIGHTY MINUTES.
Anode
Cathode
PEM
fuel cell
the duration of flight-80


IT APPROACHES THE ENEMY IN GUERILLA COMBAT USING A SOUND-CANCELLER ...
...MAKING IT CAPABLE OF CUTTING THE TARGET TO PIECES IN ABSOLUTE SILENCE.

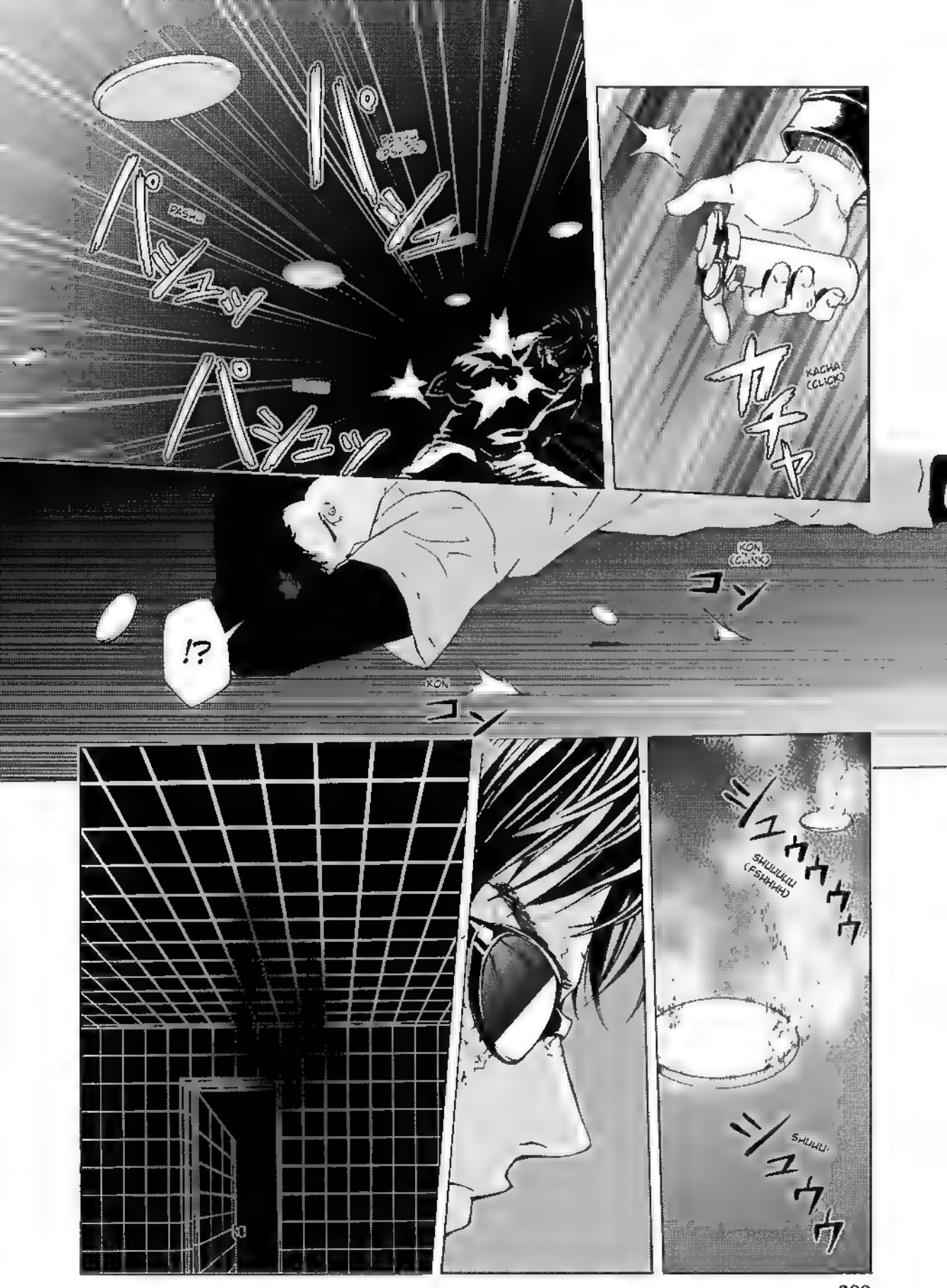
I'VE SEEN BIGGER ONES LIKE THIS, BUT I HADN'T HEARD THEY'D DEVELOPED THEM TO BE SO SMALL AND VICIOUS.
I SEE...WELL, GIVEN HOW ENTHUSIASTIC THE AMERICANS ARE ABOUT BATTLE DRONES, IT MAKES SENSE.

IT'S A HIGH-PRECISION MACHINE, RIGHT?
SHOULDN'T WE GO BACK THERE AND USE THE VAN'S JAMMING EQUIPMENT?
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE IMPRESSED!
THAT ROTOR BLADE IS GOING TO TEAR HIM TO SHREDS!
WELL, YOU'VE GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING!
.....
WE CAN'T... IT'S TOO CLOSE TO MAMORU!
IT'S MILITARY-GRADE—IT'LL HAVE BETTER SHIELDING THAN WHAT WE USE FOR MAMORU'S SHADES.
IF IT ENDS UP LEAVING HIM BLIND...

CAN'T EVEN SENSE ITS DRIVE TO KILL...
SILENT. CAN'T TELL WHAT OR WHERE IT ACTUALLY IS...
HEH HEH HEH...
Bwuuu Vvvv
IT'S LIKE THIS THING WAS CREATED TO BE MY NATURAL ENEMY...


Ma-moru!
!?
Your loud-hailer might be a good tool while you're inside!
フラーン
FLAN (WEE-OOO)
FLAN
FLAN
SOUNDS LIKE THAT EMPLOYEE MANAGED TO REACH THE COPS.
What?
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THE THING, BUT IT MIGHT GIVE YOU A NEGATIVE OF IT INSTEAD!
IT'S WORTH A SHOT!

SUPA (SWICK)
BUA (WHOOSH)
SUPA
GAGAGAGA (KRAKAKOW)
BOFU (WHOOM)


パシュッ
PASH...
パシュッ
パシュッ
KACHA (CLICK)
カチャ
KON (CLINK)
コン
!?
KON
コン
シュウウウウ
SHUUUUU (FSHHHH)
SHUUU.
シュウウ

GUD (ZYKOOH)
ブオッ
WELL, I CAN'T READ THE DISTANCE ...
UIIN (VWEEE)
ウィーン
DADA (DASH)
...BUT AT LEAST I HAVE A DIREC-TION!

ガン
ガン
ガン
ドサ
(SLUMP)
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, THEN SHUT THE FUCK UP!
グイ
(GUI
(TUG)
AAAH!!

ドサッ
ドサッ
ウ…
ドサッ
ドサッ
ドサッ

ドカ

ピタ TIK

ドカ

GA (BOOM)

GA

GA

GA

ブーン

BUUUN (VVMMM)

ドガ

ドガ

ドガ

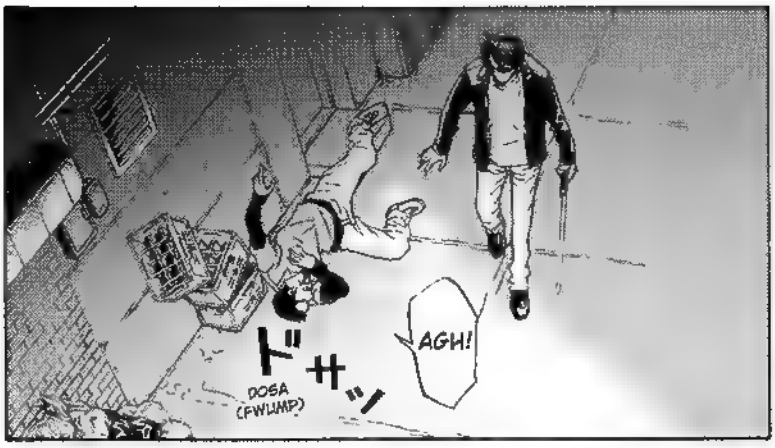
DOGAGAGAGA
(CRAAASH)

ドカ
ピカ
ガ
GA
GA
GA
GA
ブ
BLUUN

TCH!!
キュイ
(FWD)
HEED

I know you can hear me.
KURU (SPIN)
Let me give you advance warning.
Hey! Samurai!
IN TWO HOURS...
...I WILL KILL MINORI TOOYAMA, HARUKA'S GRAND-MOTHER.

WHAT ...!?
.....
MOTHER-F—
Come and stop me.
Let's do this face-to-face.
...!


AGH!
DOSA (FWUMP)

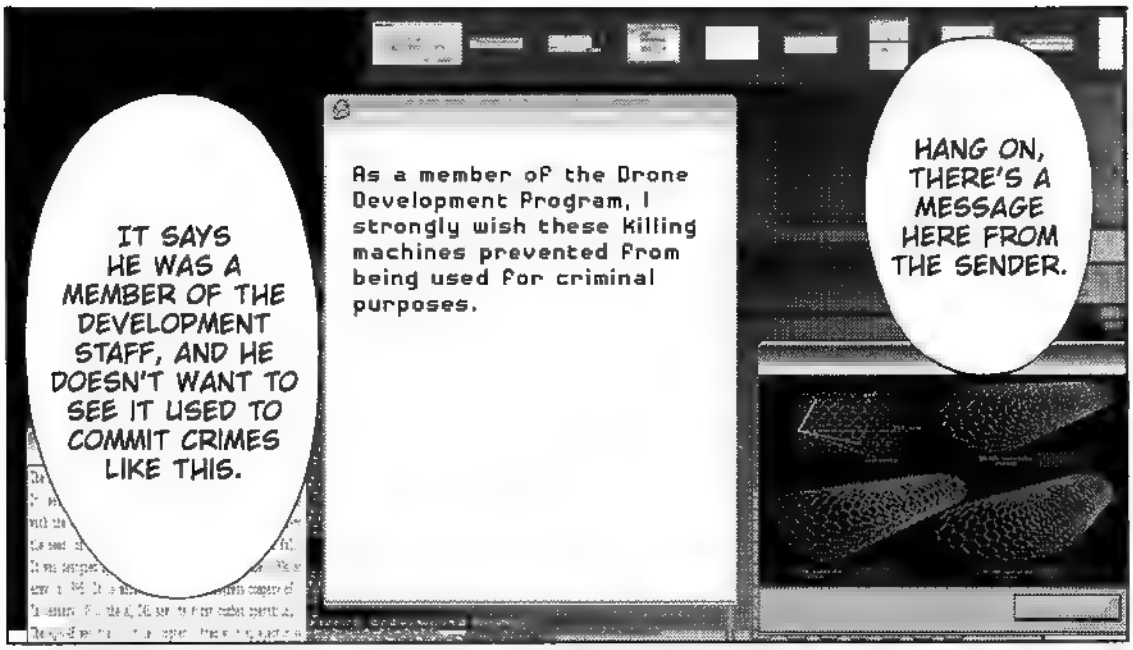
OWW ...

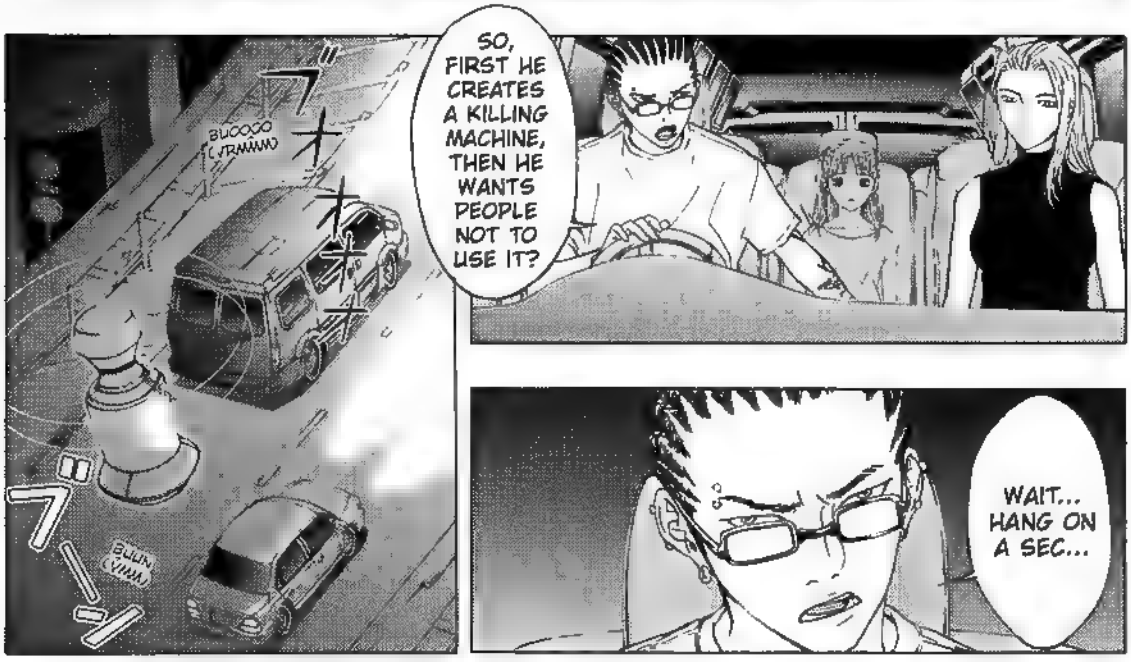
DON'T ASSUME YOU'LL GET A SECOND CHANCE NEXT TIME ...

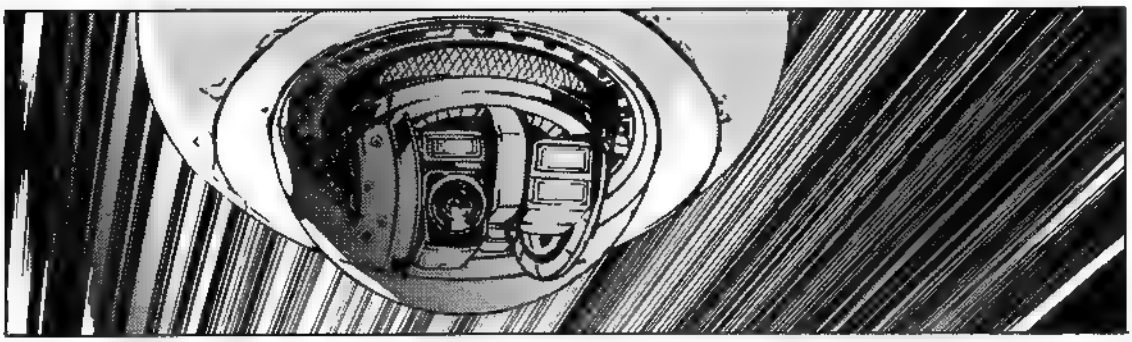
...

AH...

WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE IMPORTANT IN THE DATA WE JUST GOT!?
.....
SHIT...IT'S BEEN HARD ENOUGH DEALING WITH ONE, AND THERE COULD BE AS MANY AS FOUR MORE OF THOSE THINGS OUT THERE!?
PLUS, THE LOUD-HAILER ISN'T GOING TO HAVE ANY EFFECT IF HE NEEDS TO USE IT OUT-DOORS...
DEVELOPMENT WAS CANCELLED DUE TO AN OUT-OF-CONTROL BUDGET AND CONTROL SOFTWARE ISSUES.
IT WAS TESTED IN THE FIELD ON TERRORISTS IN SOUTHWEST AFRICA, BUT ALL FIVE MODELS DISAPPEARED AFTER THE TESTS WERE CONCLUDED.


IT SAYS HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE DEVELOPMENT STAFF, AND HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE IT USED TO COMMIT CRIMES LIKE THIS.
As a member of the Drone Development Program, I strongly wish these killing machines prevented from being used for criminal purposes.
HANG ON, THERE'S A MESSAGE HERE FROM THE SENDER.

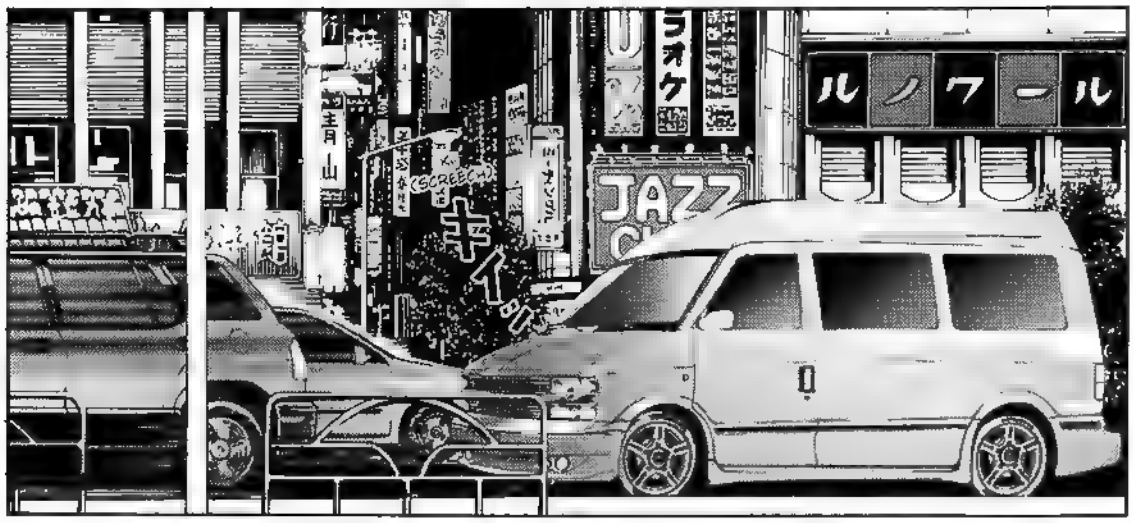

BUCOOO (VRRMMM)
BUUN (VRRM)
SO, FIRST HE CREATES A KILLING MACHINE, THEN HE WANTS PEOPLE NOT TO USE IT?
WAIT... HANG ON A SEC...



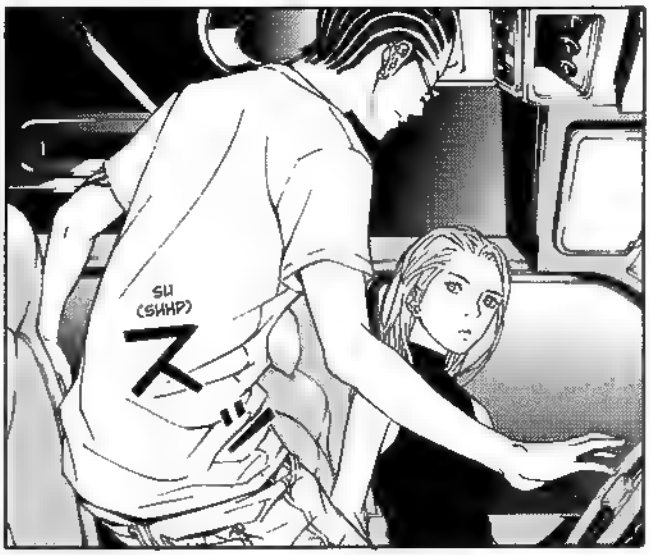
FFFJT FFFJT
TURURURU (RRRR)
TURURURU
BEEP!
SIGN KOBAYAKAWA CLINIC
The preparations are complete.
Now we just wait for the trap to close and take them down all at once.
.....
... FANG ...?

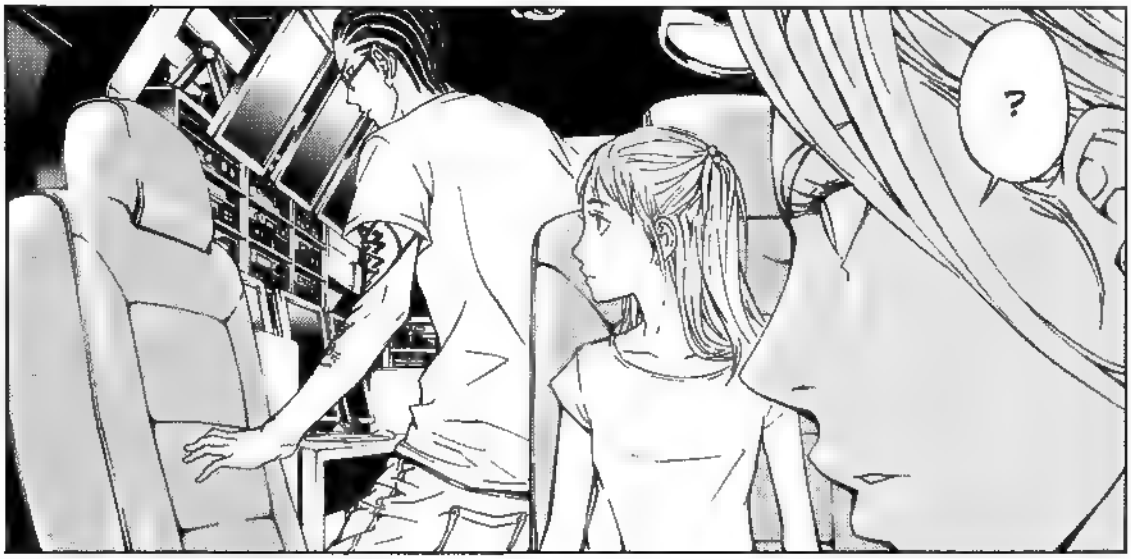
...HE'S TOUGH, ALL RIGHT...
...BUT NOT A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS TOUGH.
.....
.....
WHAT IS IT?
BAH. I HAVE AN INSURANCE POLICY IN PLACE.
DON'T YOU WORRY.
ポイ
PON (TOSS)
...DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THE MAN.
.....
.....
ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)

Until
Death
do us
Part


ルノワール
JAZZ
(SCREECH)
キィッ

TAKE THE WHEEL.


SU (SHHP)
スー

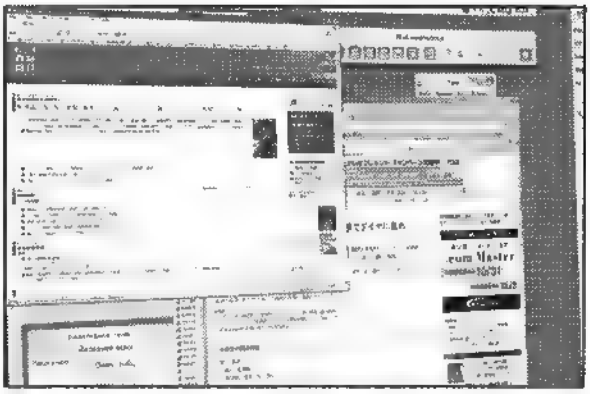

?

chapter 32

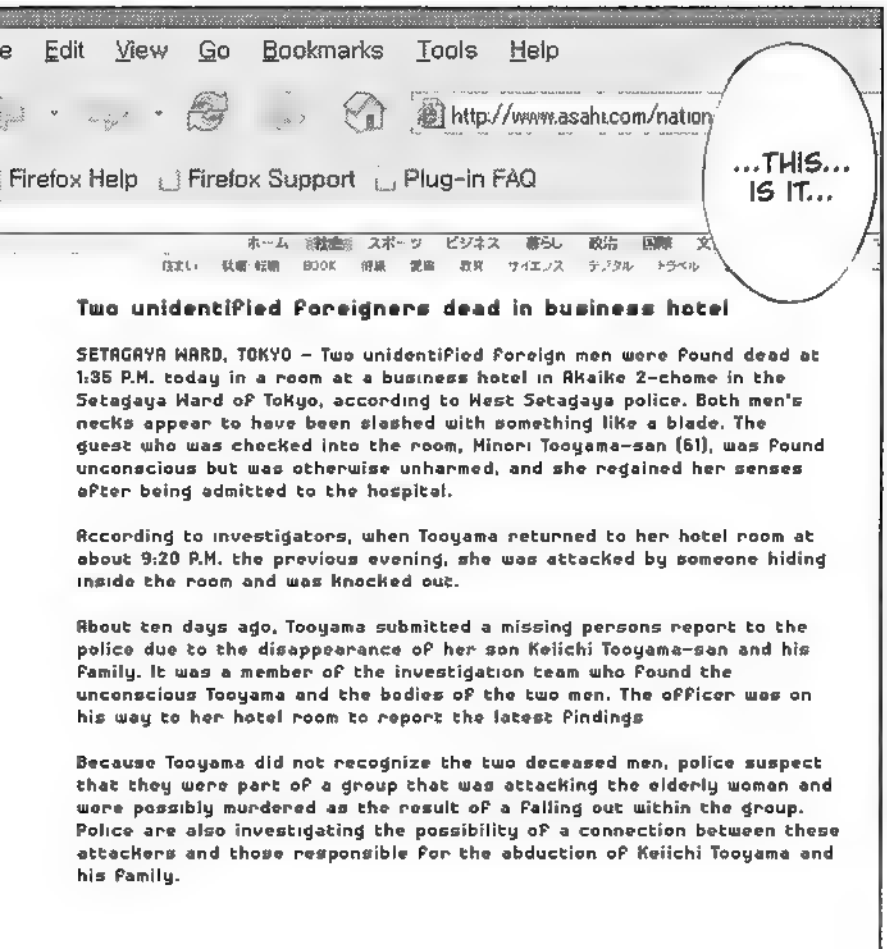
chapter 32

KO (TAP)
IGAWA ...
.....
KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA (TAP)
KATA
KATA

I'M LOOKING UP WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW.
BE PATIENT.
KACHI!
KACHI (CLICK)



WHAT ARE YOU DOING? SPEAK UP!


e Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help
http://www.asahi.com/nation
Firefox Help Firefox Support Plug-in FAQ
...THIS... IS IT...
Two unidentified foreigners dead in business hotel
SETAGAYA WARD, TOKYO — Two unidentified foreign men were found dead at 1:35 P.M. today in a room at a business hotel in Akaike 2-chome in the Setagaya Ward of Tokyo, according to West Setagaya police. Both men's necks appear to have been slashed with something like a blade. The guest who was checked into the room, Minori Tooyama-san (61), was found unconscious but was otherwise unharmed, and she regained her senses after being admitted to the hospital.
According to investigators, when Tooyama returned to her hotel room at about 9:20 P.M. the previous evening, she was attacked by someone hiding inside the room and was knocked out.
About ten days ago, Tooyama submitted a missing persons report to the police due to the disappearance of her son Keiichi Tooyama-san and his family. It was a member of the investigation team who found the unconscious Tooyama and the bodies of the two men. The officer was on his way to her hotel room to report the latest findings
Because Tooyama did not recognize the two deceased men, police suspect that they were part of a group that was attacking the elderly woman and were possibly murdered as the result of a falling out within the group. Police are also investigating the possibility of a connection between these attackers and those responsible for the abduction of Keiichi Tooyama and his family.

You got carried away, Mamoru.
THEY MAY HAVE BEEN HOLDING UP THE PLACE, BUT THOSE THUGS IN THERE WERE PRACTICALLY CHILDREN.
.....
ARE YOU STUPID?
...BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THAT IS MAKING SURE THAT IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.
Isn't preventing crime the entire point of this organization?
TH-THAT'S RIGHT...

.....
I want them scared straight...
Which is why I'm making sure to put the fear of ME into 'em.
...AND I DON'T LET KILLERS OR RELATIVES CHANGE THE WAY I DO MY BUSINESS.
So you knew what you were doing when they got trapped in that place with you?

I GUESS I DID...
.....
I KNEW IT. THIS MAN IS A DANGER TO US ALL.
HARUKA'S GRANDMA IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE WEST SETAGAYA POLICE STATION.
I'VE GOT IT.

WE CAN REST EASY, THEN.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO ATTACK HER THERE.
...SHE'S AT THE STATION, HUH...?
DON'T BE STUPID.
.....
THESE PEOPLE ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE SHE IS ALREADY.
IF MAMORU DOESN'T GO AFTER THEM, THEY'LL DO WHAT THEY'RE THREATENING.

KII (SCREECH)
キィッ
FINE... WE'RE COMING AROUND FOR YOU.
Of course they will.
...NO WAY...
.....
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
HUH?
I'LL GO WITH MAMORU-SAN!
YOU TWO KEEP GOING!

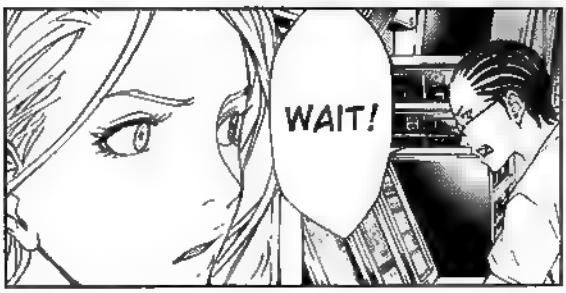
H-HEY, WAIT!
バタン
BATAN (SLAM)
HA-RUKA !?
TA (TMP)
TA
TA
ブルルン (VMM)

ブオオオ
BUOOOO (VROOM)
ガタゴト
GATA (CLANK)
GOTO (THUNK)
SHIT!
...
...NO, WAIT...

TARGET CHANGE
THIS COULD BE MY BEST CHANCE...

Y-YES, I AGREE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? IT'S DANGEROUS OUT HERE!
COME BACK AND GET HER!!
DVD


WAIT!

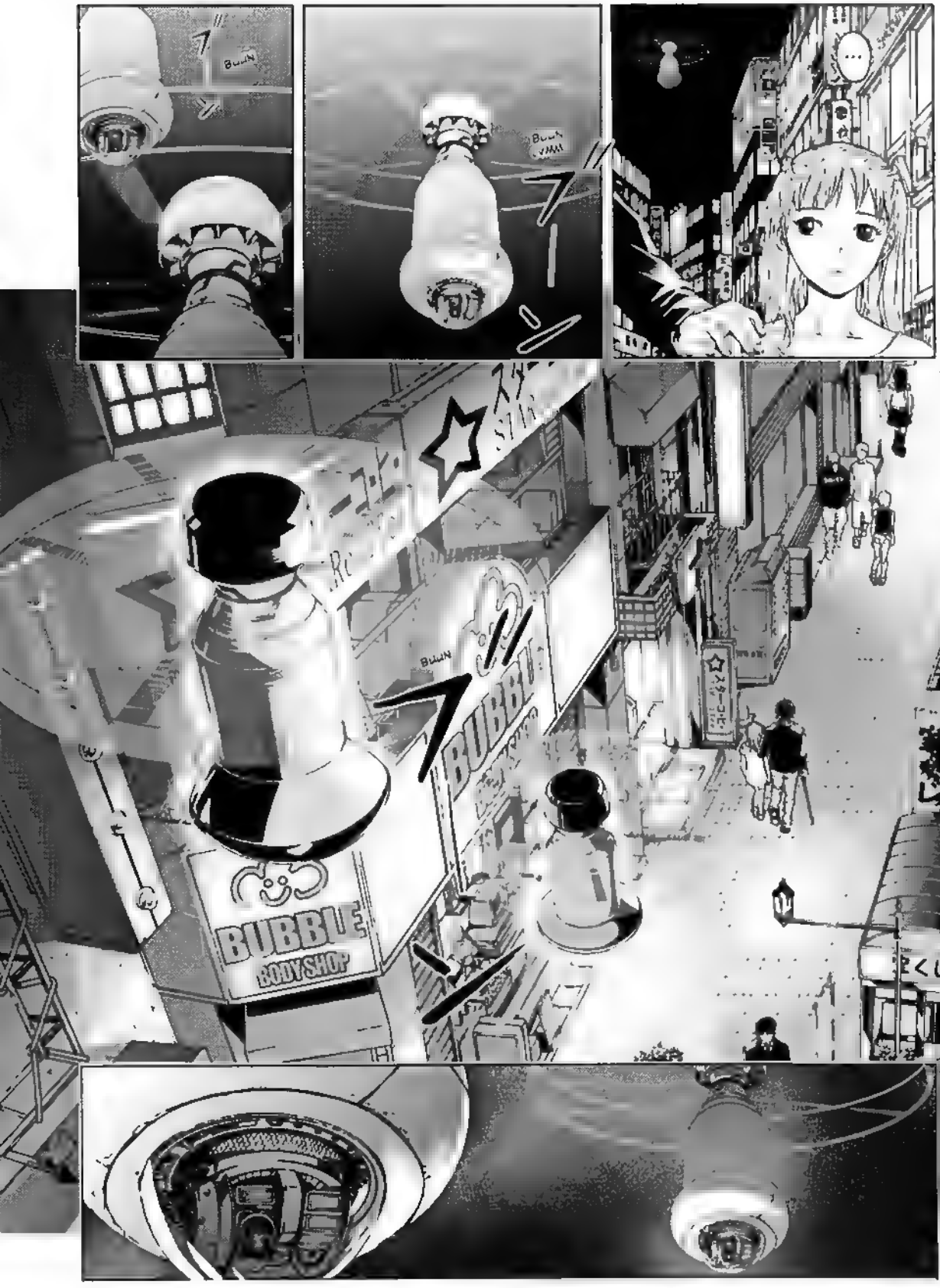
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD INTERFERE WITH HARUKA.
KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA (TAP)
setagaya police station
blade
I MEAN, LET HER DO HER THING. I'M SENDING MAMORU THE DIRECTIONS TO THE STATION.
SO YOU WANT ME TO BABY-SIT THE GIRL?
...TCH...

HAA (HUFF)
HAA
OH!
TA (TAP)
タタッ
TA
MAMORU-SAN!
まんが
喫茶
TAKEOUT

DVD
DVD
ACE
MERIDA EXPRESS
NOBA
NOBA
POWER
.....
OKAY.
THIS LOOKS UNNATURAL TO ANYONE WATCHING US.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING? SHOULDN'T YOU BE ESCORTING THE BLIND MAN?

...ARE YOU SCARED ...?
TH...
THEY'RE GOING TO ATTACK AGAIN...
.....
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

XENO
IF YOU KNEW IT WAS DANGEROUS, WHY DID YOU TAKE ACTION ALONE?
I-I WANTED TO HELP YOU...
SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWED.
DID SHE JUMP OUT OF THE VAN IN ORDER TO DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM IT...?
I'LL BE JUST FINE...
YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF...
...DON'T YOU THINK SOME-THING'S WRONG IF THE BODY-GUARD NEEDS PROTECTION HIMSELF?
...BUT...
たばこ
I'VE GOT A PLAN. PLUS...


BUBBLE
BODY SHOP

キュイ
KYUI (CLICK)
HERE HE COMES!
HA (GASP)
HOW MANY!?
DA (DASH)
T-TWO OF THEM!
!
GABA (GRAB)

BUUUN
(VWWW)
HYU
(SWISH)
!

Asuhi
GAN
(CLAANG)

!!

ドガギャッ

DOGAGYA (KDSHH)

ガン

GAN

ブーン

BUUN (VMM)

ブブブブブ

BUBUBUBU (BZZT)

ジャジャジャ

JAJAJA (SKRSHH)

ガガガガ

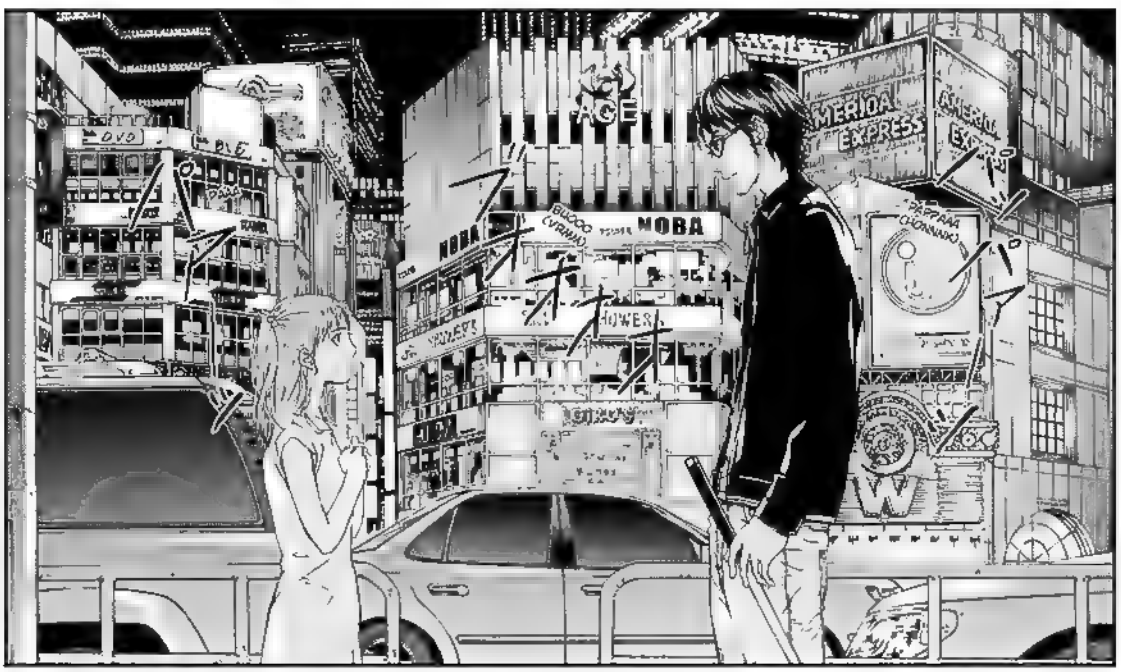
GAGAGAGA (KRRRK)

ガラガラ

SHIT!
BARA
BARA (CRUMBLE)
ZUGA (THUD)
ZUGA
BOFU (BMMF)
!
ZZT!
ZZT!
FUOOO (SWOOSH)
DAMN ...
DIDN'T QUITE GET IT!
BUBUBU (MMM)

KAKAN (CLANG)
カカン
BUN (VMM)
KAN
TA (TMP)
タタタッ
TA
IF THE MONOLAYER ON THE SWORD HAD BEEN AT FULL STRENGTH, THAT WOULD HAVE DONE THE JOB.
BIP! BIP! BIP!
BIP! BIP!
BIP! BIP!
YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME!
BIP! BIP!
WITH THAT DESPERATION SWING!?
BIP! BIP!
BIP! BIP!

until death do us part ❷ – end


DVD
ACE
MERIDA
EXPRESS
NOBA
NOBA
POWER

DECEMBER 2006:
I WENT TO THE SQUARE ENIX END-OF-YEAR PARTY!

THE PARTY WAS GREAT! I MET A BUNCH OF ARTISTS AND ATE A BUNCH OF GREAT FOOD. THE BEST PART WAS GETTING TO MEET THE GREAT KENICHI MURAEDA-SENSEI, WHO GAVE ME A BUNCH OF ADVICE ABOUT MANGA.

AHH...

THE RAYS OF GLORY!

I'M SO GLAD I'M A MANGA ARTIST...I JUST WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE THAT I'M GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING THAT LED TO THIS HAPPENING!

...I'VE BEEN LIVING ON A BED OF NAILS.

I-I'M SO SORRY, EVERYONE...

AND BECAUSE OF THAT...

...CAN YOU CHECK THIS FINISHED PAGE FOR US? I HATE TO BOTHER YOU WHEN YOU'RE SO TIRED FROM PARTYING ALL NIGHT...

O GREAT SENSEI-SAMA, WHO PROMISED TO TAKE US TO THE PARTY BUT WENT BY HIMSELF...

.....

UH...

SURE...

SO INSTEAD, I HAVE A BEER AND WATCH A MOVIE!

SOMETIMES I WATCH THREE OR FOUR AT A TIME. I LOVE HOLLYWOOD ACTION FILMS, BUT MOSTLY...

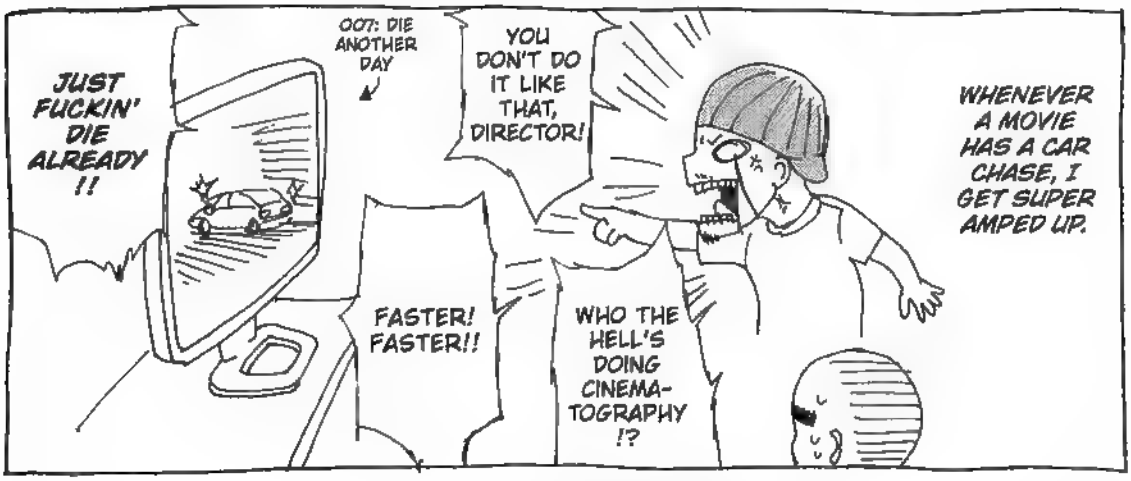
...I'M A SUCKER FOR CAR-CHASE SCENES!!

MY FAVORITE BREW IS HEINEKEN. ♥

A LOT OF MY FELLOW ARTISTS FEEL THE SAME WAY, IT SEEMS. MANY LIKE TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES WHEN THE CHAPTER IS FINISHED...

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN DRAWING A CHAPTER FOR THIRTY HOURS STRAIGHT, YOU WIND UP IN THIS BIZARRO-WORLD MENTAL SPACE AT THE VERY END.

EVEN THOUGH YOUR BODY DESPERATELY NEEDS SLEEP, IT FEELS LIKE YOU DON'T WANT TO WASTE THE TIME...


JUST FUCKIN' DIE ALREADY !!
007: DIE ANOTHER DAY
YOU DON'T DO IT LIKE THAT, DIRECTOR!
FASTER! FASTER!!
WHO THE HELL'S DOING CINEMA-TOGRAPHY !?

WHENEVER A MOVIE HAS A CAR CHASE, I GET SUPER AMPED UP.

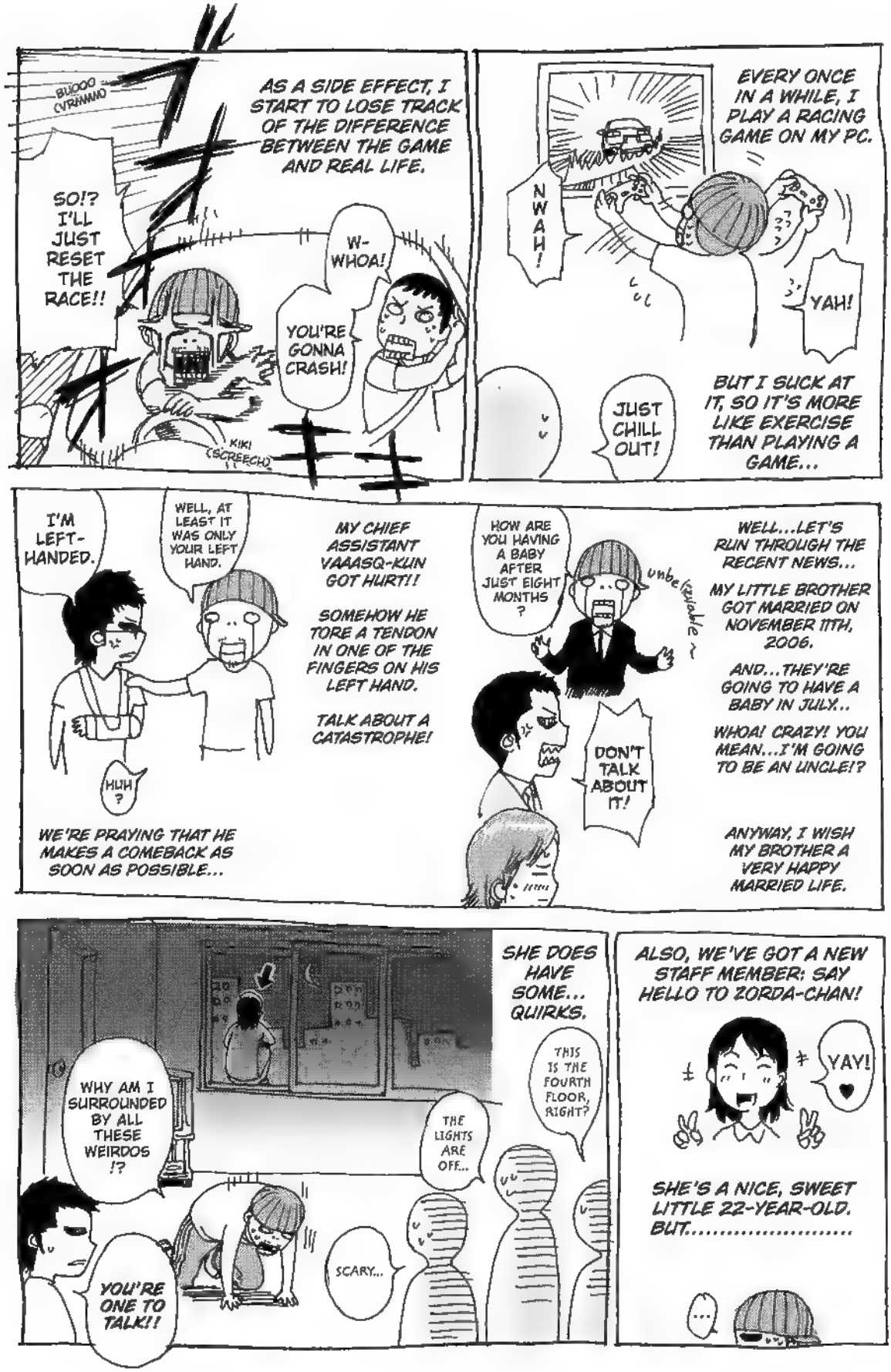
PERSONALLY, I THINK THE CHASE SCENE IN BOURNE SUPREMACY WAS THE BEST I'VE EVER SEEN.

IT SHOULDN'T SURPRISE ANYONE IF I SAY IT HAS RAISED THE BAR FOR CAR CHASES FOREVER.

YOU HAVE TO WATCH IT.

TWO MOVIES I WATCHED RECENTLY WERE BAD BOYS 2 AND THE BOURNE SUPREMACY.

THEY WERE AWESOME!


AS A SIDE EFFECT, I START TO LOSE TRACK OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GAME AND REAL LIFE.
BUOOO (VRRMM)
SO!? I'LL JUST RESET THE RACE!!
W-WHOA!
YOU'RE GONNA CRASH!
KIKI (SCREECH)
EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, I PLAY A RACING GAME ON MY PC.
NWAH!
YAH!
JUST CHILL OUT!
BUT I SUCK AT IT, SO IT'S MORE LIKE EXERCISE THAN PLAYING A GAME...
I'M LEFT-HANDED.
WELL, AT LEAST IT WAS ONLY YOUR LEFT HAND.
HUH?
MY CHIEF ASSISTANT VAAASQ-KUN GOT HURT!!
SOMEHOW HE TORE A TENDON IN ONE OF THE FINGERS ON HIS LEFT HAND.
TALK ABOUT A CATASTROPHE!
WE'RE PRAYING THAT HE MAKES A COMEBACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
HOW ARE YOU HAVING A BABY AFTER JUST EIGHT MONTHS?
unbelievable ~
DON'T TALK ABOUT IT!
WELL...LET'S RUN THROUGH THE RECENT NEWS...
MY LITTLE BROTHER GOT MARRIED ON NOVEMBER 11TH, 2006.
AND...THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A BABY IN JULY..
WHOA! CRAZY! YOU MEAN...I'M GOING TO BE AN UNCLE!?
ANYWAY, I WISH MY BROTHER A VERY HAPPY MARRIED LIFE.
WHY AM I SURROUNDED BY ALL THESE WEIRDOS !?
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!!
SCARY...
THE LIGHTS ARE OFF...
THIS IS THE FOURTH FLOOR, RIGHT?
SHE DOES HAVE SOME... QUIRKS.
ALSO, WE'VE GOT A NEW STAFF MEMBER: SAY HELLO TO ZORDA-CHAN!
YAY!
SHE'S A NICE, SWEET LITTLE 22-YEAR-OLD. BUT.....
...

Art Staff
VaaasQ (24) ♂: Chief Assistant
Suri (24) ♀: Background Art
Euzue (24) ♀: Screentones
0-Second (22) ♂: Background Art
Zorda (22) ♀: Background Art

Military Advisor
Lee Hyun Seok (warmania)

SPECIAL THANKS
Shingo Takano

Translation Notes

Common Honorifics
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
***-san*:** The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
***-sama*:** Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
***-kun*:** Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
***-chan*:** An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
***-senpai*:** A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
***-sensei*:** A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Yen conversion: While exchange rates fluctuate daily, a convenient conversion estimation is about ¥100 to 1 USD.

Page 261
Juuzankai: The name of this organized crime syndicate means something like "group of the ten leftover." It's likely just meant to be a proper name rather than a meaningful title.

Page 324
Pachinko: The closest Japan has to a casino, the pachinko parlor is a loud, smoky place full of pinball-like machines in which tiny metal balls are shot up a vertical shaft and then trickle down through an arrangement of pins, with its final resting place determining whether or not the player wins more balls. The machines only give out more pachinko balls, which can be redeemed for useless trinket prizes, but a separate building nearby (run by the parlor's owners) will buy back the prizes for cash, thus circumventing Japan's gambling laws. Despite the rather obvious loophole, pachinko is a widely-accepted game that is very unlikely to be outlawed.

Page 432
Kenichi Muraeda: The author of the hit manga series *Kamen Rider Spirits*, an adaptation of the classic Kamen Rider TV superhero franchise.

UNTIL DEATH DO US PART 2

Hiroshi Takashige
DOUBLE-S

Translation: Stephen Paul
Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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